

Saturday November 16 1996

Table of exchange rates for various countries including Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dubai, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, USA.

# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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Can campaigners change drugs 'n' clubs culture?

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### High Court to rule on whether woman in near-vegetative state can be left to starve

# Is a flicker of life enough?

Claire Dyer  
Legal Correspondent

**A** HEALTH authority is poised to ask the High Court for the first time to allow the withdrawal of artificial feeding from a patient who is not in a permanent vegetative state. It also emerged yesterday that two police forces recently investigated cases in which doctors were suspected of withdrawing feeding from patients without court sanction.

In one case, according to a spokeswoman for the British Medical Association, the patient was "definitely not in a vegetative state." The woman road traffic accident victim, who cannot be identified, has been diagnosed as "near vegetative" since a neurologist and a nurse saw her eyes "tracking" the movement of an object. Patients in the persistent vegetative state (PVS) cannot move their eyes on a deliberate track. They have had their higher brain destroyed and have no awareness of their environment or ability

to interact with others, though their eyes are open and they have reflex reactions to sound and light. They can breathe unaided but have no swallowing reflex, so have to be fed through a tube. James Munby, the QC briefed by the Official Solicitor to represent the patient in the pending case, said yesterday he believed the court would sanction the move. The case is likely to spark a furious ethical debate. The High Court has allowed health authorities and NHS trusts to stop feeding 10 PVS patients so far.

The revelations came at a conference on PVS, jointly organised by the BMA, the Official Solicitor's office and the Centre for Medical Law and Ethics, King's College, London. Among those taking part was Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court's Family Division, who will probably take the decision on whether the near-PVS patient should be allowed to die. The BMA's ethics committee has drawn up guidelines on PVS patients but has not yet taken a stance on withdrawing feeding from other

patients. "When we looked at vegetative patients, we thought that was a discrete condition and it wouldn't have applications for other cases," a spokeswoman said. Dr Keith Andrews, who has documented 17 cases in which patients were wrongly diagnosed as vegetative, said there was no logical difference between PVS patients and those with minimum awareness. "It would be important to identify whether the patient is able to indicate some awareness—not just whether they are 'tracking' but

whether they are able to communicate. It's pointless being too pedantic about being in or out of the vegetative state," said Dr Andrews, medical director of the Royal Hospital for Neurodisability, Farnley, south-west London. Bryan Jennett, emeritus professor of neurosurgery at Glasgow University and an expert on PVS, said: "We ought to consider the patients' best interests and whether having some slight degree of awareness might not make their predicament worse than if they were unaware."

In the case of Hillsborough disaster victim Tony Bland the Lords laid down that feeding should not be stopped without court approval. Mr Munby said the effect of the judgment was that it was unlawful for doctors to prolong the life of PVS patients. Given that there were an estimated 1,000 to 1,500 patients in PVS, he wondered why only 10 cases had come to court. "Is it that large numbers of doctors are doing what the House of Lords told them not to do—discontinuing treatment without coming to court

— or is it that large numbers of doctors are doing what, on one view of the law, the House of Lords has told us is unlawful?" The BMA was notified of two suspected withdrawals of feeding cases last spring. In Lancashire, police considered bringing a murder charge against the GP of an 85-year-old woman stroke victim who was a patient in a nursing home but the Crown Prosecution Service decided the evidence did not warrant charges. A similar decision is thought to have been taken in a case in the Bristol area.

## School pays £30,000 to victim of bullying

Claire Dyer

**A** FORMER schoolboy accepted £30,000 compensation yesterday in what lawyers believe is the first successful court case brought over bullying. Sebastian Sharp, now 20, was due to take his case to the High Court on Monday, but insurers for Sharn School in Sheen, south-west London, offered the money in an out-of-court settlement yesterday. The case, which could lead to a flood of claims against schools and education authorities, would have been the first bullying case to reach the High Court, and could have established new guidelines on schools' duties to protect pupils. The only case to have reached a court judgment, brought by cerebral palsy sufferer Rebecca Walker against Bolsover School in Derbyshire, was thrown out at Nottingham county court in 1994. Mr Sharp, who was the victim of a four-year campaign waged by other schoolchildren and who ran away for four days at one point to escape his torment, could not be reached last night. His mother, Janice, said: "It's very good news. At least it's opened up a pathway for other people to make somebody answerable for what is happening in schools today. We didn't know whether he was alive or dead during the four days he was missing." She said a child psychiatrist who specialises in bullying would have given evidence that between eight and 10 children a year commit suicide as a result of bullying. Mr Sharp's solicitor, Jack Rabinowitz, said it was a pity the case would not go to court because it would have clar-

ified issues about schools' duties to prevent bullying. A specialist in education law, he said he had another half-dozen cases on his books. Mr Sharp, who lives with his parents in Richmond, south-west London, sued the governors of Sharn School for £200,000 damages. He was at the centre of a nationwide search when he ran away from home five years ago, and alleged in his writ that constant bullying had left him psychologically traumatised and affected his education and career prospects. The writ claimed he was regularly kicked, punched, picked on and insulted from the age of 11, when he started at the school, until he ran away at 15. He alleged that other pupils tore up his work, hit him across the head with rulers, threw things at him and tripped him up, and that at the end of his fifth year he was tied up by classmates about twice a week. The writ said that bullying seriously affected his personality, making him anxious, depressed and suicidal. Mr Rabinowitz said: "We say the school knew about it right from the start. There was one meeting where the kids were assembled and told they shouldn't do it, but it went on unabated, which gave Sebastian final despair." He ran away from home, leaving his parents a note saying he had been picked on and could not take any more. He later continued his education at a sixth-form college, achieving three GCSEs. The writ claimed the school was negligent in failing to take reasonable care for Mr Sharp's health and safety or protect him from bullying. Mr Sharp, who has a clerical job with a brokerage firm, was granted legal aid to bring the case.



Rwandan refugees head home yesterday after an attack broke militias' hold on Mungunga camp. PHOTOGRAPH: THOMAS COOKE

## Refugees flood back to Rwanda

Chris McGreal in Goma

**H**UNDREDS of thousands of Rwandan refugees abandoned their camps and streamed home yesterday after Zairean rebels and Rwandan soldiers broke the insidious control of Hutu extremist militias — and the deadlock of looming disaster in eastern Zaire. The assault on Mungunga camp — where the notorious *interahamwe* militia herded huge numbers of refugees to escape Zairean rebels backed by Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated government — succeeded where the United Nations has failed for two years, and threw into question the need for the multinational intervention force now being assembled. The UN estimated that the vast majority of the 700,000 Rwandans camped around Goma since 1994 are on the move, after the attack sent the *interahamwe* fleeing and persuaded most refugees that they were better off returning home. In scenes reminiscent of the influx of refugees into Zaire

two years ago, hordes of people choked miles of road as they headed towards Goma and the Rwandan border. By dusk tens of thousands had crossed the frontier at a rate of 170 a minute, while the mass settled down for the night by the roadside in Zaire in torrential rain storms. Desire Muthirwa, aged 31, a father of three who had also taken an orphan under his wing, said the *interahamwe* was all that had stopped them from going home before. "The shelling killed a lot of people. The day before yesterday the Rwandans stopped us from leaving the camp. Anyone who wanted to go was killed instantly. But this morning they were gone and so we left," he said. All through the day they tramped on, exhausted by fear and almost totally silent except for the occasional wail from a small child gripping its mother's skirt to try to keep up. Some hobbled on crutches. Others collapsed and crawled. Women carried babies and small children. Turn to page 2, column 7

## 'I don't want £2.1m lottery jackpot — the fuss would finish me off'

Martin Walker

**N**O PENSIONER in Hull was safe last night after the bizarre revelation that a £2.1 million National Lottery jackpot ticket is lying unopened on an elderly local widow's front room table. Reporters, treasure hunt-

ers and officials of Camelot, the Lottery organisers, began a systematic attempt to persuade the reluctant winner to break cover — at least to the modest extent of actually claiming the prize. The strangest twist yet in the unpredictable history of Lottery oddities followed: an unsigned letter to the

Hull Daily Mail. The woman's letter said the winning ticket, from May 24, had been bought by her husband shortly before his death. She wrote: "I was very shocked when he bought the ticket. He had never gambled in his life, so I don't know why he did it. It was a grand feeling to win, but too late."

The woman then gave her age, courteously blanked out by the newspaper, and added: "So what would be the point of the money. I have no family or friends, just a helper. Sorry, but I don't wish to give my name. I am sure the fuss would finish me off." "The ticket is on the front room table. I keep looking

at it — if only I could have my life over." The woman added that she hoped the millions could go to local hospitals in Hull because they "were kind and looked after my husband". The six-month deadline for claiming the jackpot runs out at 11pm on Thursday, and Camelot warned

that the money would go automatically into the good causes pool if the woman failed to contact them. Taryn Hilburn, of Camelot, said: "If she wanted to give all the money away, they could even help her do that. But she would have to accept the money from us first. We can't give it away on her behalf."

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The Guardian

Europe's Quality Newspaper

To our readers, Over recent weeks, we have been experiencing production problems which have seriously affected our distribution in some countries. We have now installed new transmission equipment at both our overseas print sites — an investment which will ensure a regular and timely distribution of The Guardian International to our readers all over the world. Guardian Newspapers will continue to invest in the future — to make The Guardian International available in as many countries as possible, as early as possible. We thank you for your continued support. For further information on availability and subscriptions, please contact us: International Publishing Dept Tel: (44) (0)171 239 9949 Fax: (44) (0)171 713 4131 E-mail: guardian.co.uk

2 CHRONICLE/NEWS

Hundreds of prisoners to be freed

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE first of more than 800 prisoners, mostly burglars and thieves, were released early last night after a devastating High Court judgment against the Home Secretary, Michael Howard.

Three judges, including the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, ruled that the way the prison service had calculated release dates of inmates serving current sentences had been unlawfully applied for 30 years. The Home Secretary was refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

The Prison Service was last night trying to complete a check on the sentencing records of all 58,000 inmates to establish exactly how many will qualify for release.

Early indications are that some 800 serving prisoners are likely to be affected. The Prisons Minister, Ann Widdecombe, said, "About 60 will be eligible for immediate release."

Thousands more prisoners who have already ended their sentences are also likely to be entitled to compensation worth a total of up to £18 million. The size of the final bill, at about £80 a day per person, will be capped by a six-year statute of limitations which means only those released after 1980 can claim.

Happy return bridges history

Ernie Clouston

THE Blue Box of Destiny was back in Scotland last night, safe from Plantagenet ghosts and nationalist cat burglars in the secure room of a government laboratory.

The box, lashed to the floorpan of a varnished army Land Rover, slipped back over the Tweed at 11.05am. The historic ceremony was a moving advertisement for the stoicism of the Scottish race.

Scotland in general has been uncertain how to react to the return of its former coronation furniture. Pressed, most agree that it's nice to get something back from the English, but they are nervous of being portrayed as savages who can be bribed with a lump of quasi-scriptural rock.



Coming home... The stone crosses Coldstream's 230-year-old bridge

'Wise men' give Kohl bad tidings on economy

Jan Traynor in Bonn

CHANCELLOR Helmut Kohl's European predicament worsened yesterday as economic advisers declared that Germany would fail to meet the key budget and debt criteria for the single European currency next year.

In a gloomy annual report on this year's economic performance and the prospects for next year, the council of economic experts, known as the "five wise men", warned of soaring unemployment, flagging investment, and fiscal policy locked in a vicious circle.

Most European Union countries could fail the single currency test next year, the council warned. It argued against judging the criteria, which could trigger a credibility crisis in the anti-protectionist "Delors" case in the required option. If it is apparent that the criteria cannot be credibly fulfilled in 1997, governments should announce a

postponement in good time to create clarity and to avoid surprises on the financial markets. The council said. Despite Germany's projected economic growth next year of 2.5 per cent, up one point on this year, the council said next year's budget deficit would be 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product - 10 per cent higher than the ceiling set for next year for qualification for the single currency in 1999.

Stressing the predictions of 2.5 per cent growth, Mr Kohl shrugged off doubts about Germany's fitness for economic and monetary union.

The 1997 budget goes for its final reading in parliament later this month after clearing the parliamentary budget committee yesterday. The Finance Minister, Hans Eichel, has pledged that the federal deficit will not be allowed to exceed DM56.5 billion (22.5 billion) next year, guaranteeing an overall deficit of 2.5 per cent.

Rwandan exodus after attack

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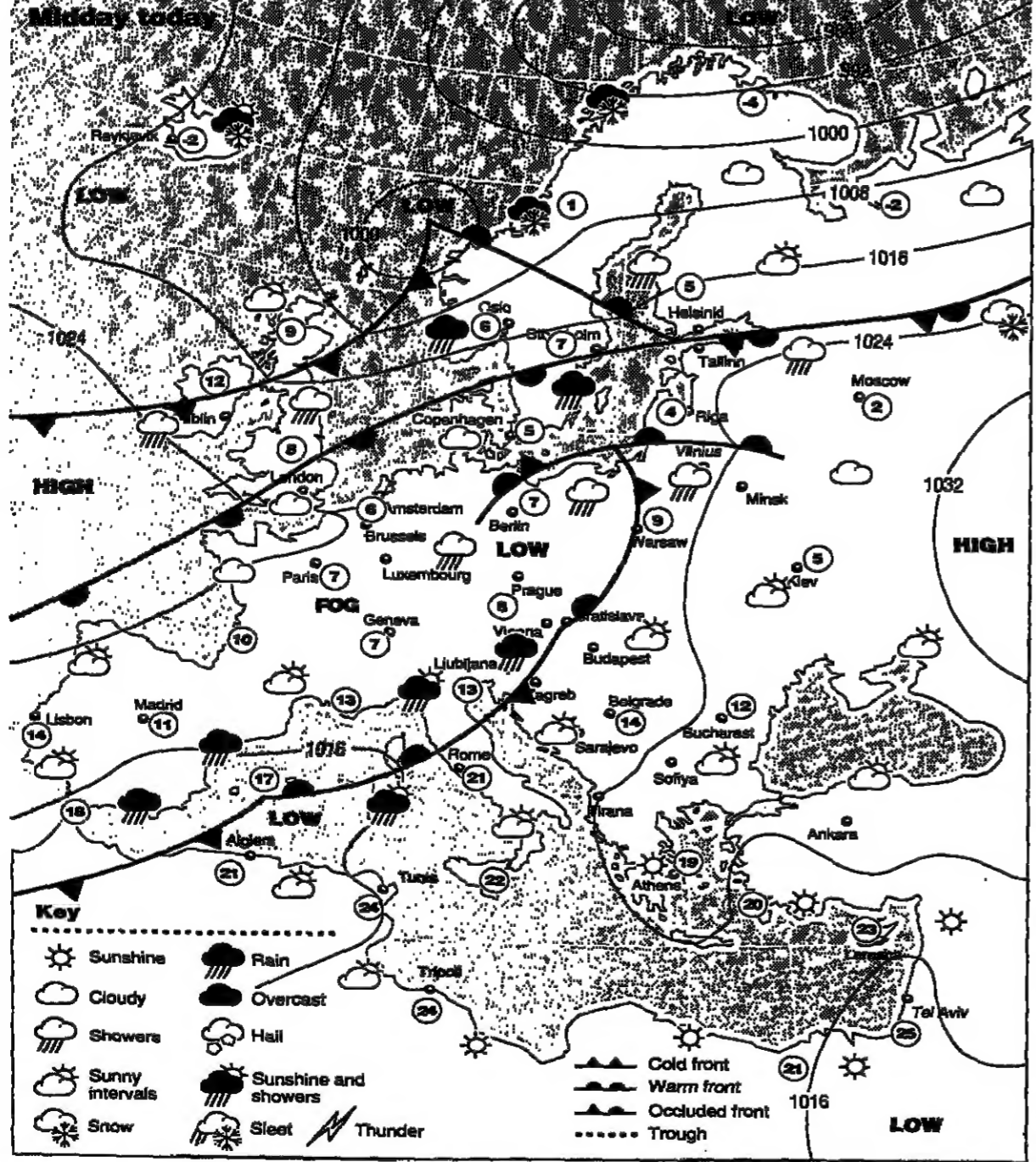
who have only ever known life in the camps. One man carried nothing but a bible. Another had a full-grown man strapped to his back like a baby.

The exodus signalled the final collapse of Hutu extremist control over the bulk of the refugees who have provided a political base, hiding place and shield for the militiamen who led the genocide

of Rwanda's Tutsis in 1994. It also cast new doubt over the role of the Canadian-led multinational force authorised by a UN resolution last night. The rebel leader, Laurent Kabila, said the mass return has made the force redundant.

"I don't think the international community, as Muganga camp will not be there, will have any reason to come here. Who do they need to free?" he asked. The Rwandan and Kenyan governments agree.

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities: A table with columns for city names and weather forecasts for different times of day.

European weather outlook: A detailed forecast for various European countries including the UK, Ireland, France, Germany, and Spain, mentioning temperature ranges and weather conditions.

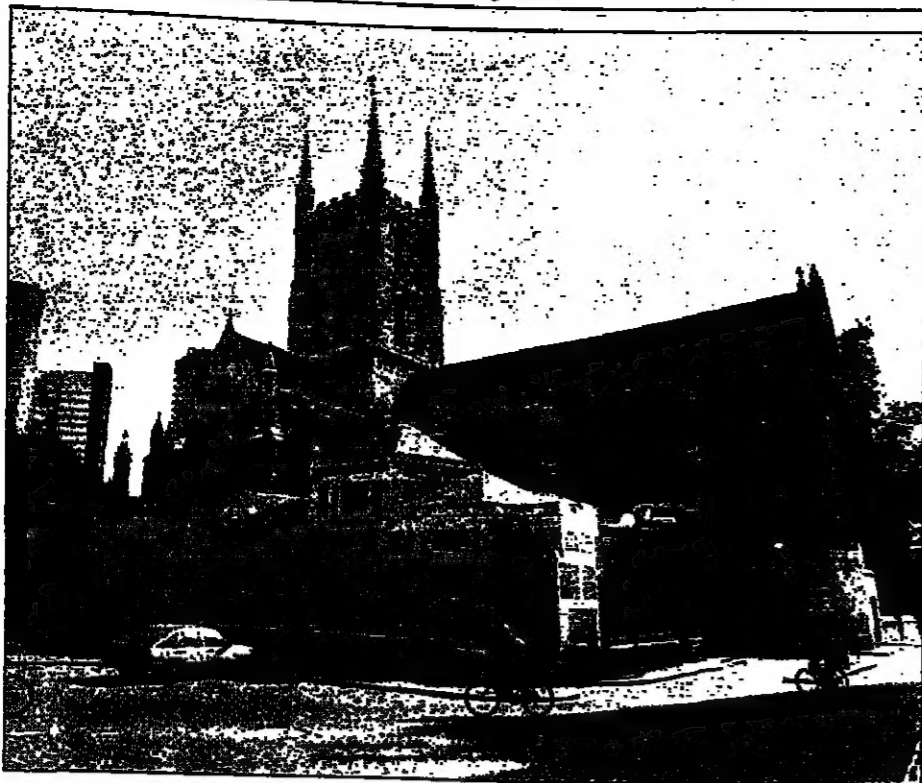
Television and radio - Saturday

Television and radio - Saturday: A list of TV channels and their respective programs, including BBC 1, BBC 2, BBC 4, and various radio stations like BBC Radio 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Television and radio - Sunday

Television and radio - Sunday: A list of TV channels and their respective programs for Sunday, including BBC 1, BBC 2, BBC 4, and various radio stations.

سوان الأمل



The spectre of schism hangs over a bitterly divided Church of England as the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement celebrates its 20th anniversary today. While its members meet in Southwark Cathedral to pray for acceptance, conservatives link them to promiscuity, depravity and paedophilia. **Madeleine Bunting** reports



The choice of Southwark Cathedral by Richard Kirker of the LGCM — seen with the organisation's teddybear mascots — has infuriated evangelicals

# Marching as to war over sin and sexuality

**T**ODAY'S celebration to mark the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement's 20th anniversary has brought to a head the most divisive issue in the Church of England since the ordination of women. In Southwark Cathedral, 2,000 members of the movement will gather to pray for recognition and acceptance in the Church, which bans practising homosexuals from being ordained and outlaws same-sex relationship blessings. At the same time, evangelicals in about 20 Anglican churches all over the country will be praying to the same God that gays and lesbians repent of their "evil acts" and that He forgive the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, for the Church's failure to "banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrine".

The Southwark event has concentrated the campaigning efforts of both the LGCM and Reform, the conservative evangelical group. It has split the Southwark diocese into bitterly opposing camps, impressing on other dioceses watching from the sidelines how the issue of homosexuality really does raise the spectre of schism. The LGCM, under the astute guidance for the last 20 years of Richard Kirker, its general secretary and founder, is nothing if not astute at strategy. Today's event was always going to be controversial; it was intended to be. This evening's service at Southwark is a *coup de grâce*. The use of a cathedral has incensed evangelical opponents. The symbolism of a cathedral as the spiritual centre of the diocese implies official approval for active homosexuality, however much Dr Carey insisted last week that it does not.

Southwark has mobilised Reform into a frenzy of activity, and the last few months has been punctuated by a series of threats. The group has called for evangelicals to challenge bishops to declare their position and boycott those who refuse to endorse their opposition to homosexuality. Parishes in Southwark have declared they will cap their quotas to the diocese in protest. Reform accuses Dr Carey of breaking canon law and has urged him to ban the service. The group's most recent move was to write on Thursday to the Attorney General asking him to look into the LGCM's link last year on the Internet to the "blasphemous" poem, *The Love that Dares Not Speak Its Name*.

Stirred by members of Reform have become increasingly vicious. They have likened gays to Nazis or advocates of apartheid; they have referred in press releases to the case of the Roman Catholic priest sentenced this week to six years for abusing boys and amassing the biggest collection of Internet pornography, with the clear implication that gays are paedophiles. They have repeatedly targeted a book, *The A to Z of Gay Sex*, which they maintain will be for sale at the book fair that is being run during today's seminars and which they claim, gives advice on cutting and gay sex, and says: "Who said that human beings are supposed to be monogamous, anyway? Why, some boring old fart in the Bible, that's who!"

Reform's most recent press release quoted from a sex guide LGCM possessed, 10 years ago in which "baths are recommended as a place to achieve more sex than anywhere else and it favours sex orgies with a crowd". To Reform it is clear that homosexuality is inextricably linked to paedophilia, promiscuity and depravity of a kind well known in Sodom and Gomorrah. Leviticus's condemnation of homosexuality as an "abomination" is putting it mildly.

Reform acknowledged yesterday that today's event will go ahead, but threatened to take serious decisions at its national council meeting next month. "This extraordinary event at Southwark has brought things to a head and leads us to believe that eventually the Church will accept practising homosexuals for ordination," said the Reverend Philip Hacking, chairman of Reform, yesterday. "We will be discussing ways of dissociating ourselves more and more with the Church. It will be like a church within a church. We want to strengthen our network of Reform member churches under our own leadership. But we aren't going to leave the Church of England — because we are standing by its truths — unless they throw us out."

The LGCM's dogged persistence and confidence infuriate Reform. LGCM supporters believe history is on their side. They draw parallels with the long struggle for women's ordination and take courage from the steady progress they have made in recent years for what they believe is ultimately a question of justice and honesty. The one thing Reform and the LGCM have in common is their capacity to stir up a fuss out of all proportion to their small memberships. Reform has 500 clergy and 800 lay members, while the LGCM has 1,200 members, of whom 400 are clergy.

But beyond Reform's fanaticism lies a hinterland of support — as a timely Evangelical Alliance survey published this week pointed out. A staggering 96 per cent believed same-sex relationships were always wrong. With evangelicals increasingly powerful in the Church of England — they now represent 40 per cent of members — this should give the LGCM pause for thought. Despite attempts by evangelical theologians and the development of a much more open-minded "post-evangelical" sexuality, evangelicals remain adamantly opposed. For them, the issue strikes at the heart of the question of the authority of the Bible. Since every word comes directly from God, attempts to explain away the condemnation of St Paul or Leviticus are pure sophistry.

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This is the bishops' worst nightmare — evangelicals and liberals tugging Bible verses at each other, and fighting for the allegiance of the vast bulk of church-going Anglicans who have little interest in, and less knowledge of, homosexuality. The debate over gay rights is one that the bishops just don't want.

As the Rt Rev John Gladwin, Bishop of Guildford, who has been excoriated by Reform for agreeing to preach at the service this evening, said last week: "This is where the lobby groups from either point of view don't help us. In freezing the atmosphere, they prevent an honest and open discussion of what is happening. One of the critical things we've got to achieve is more honesty and openness in the discussion. It will take longer and longer the more we go on simply screaming at each other."

What has collapsed in the 1990s is the comfortable double standards by which everyone knew there were gay clergy, and no bishop would dream of doing anything about it. The system rubbed along in a very English fashion with a mixture of turning a blind eye and a lot of discretion. Under this system, a disproportionate number of gays were attracted to the cloth and have served the Church for the

most part with unstinting dedication. "Don't tell, won't ask" became the unwritten rule in theological colleges. "Gays have been ordained for hundreds of years," points out the Rt Rev Walter Righter, the retired bishop of Iowa, Anglican champion of gay rights — after his trial for heresy on grounds of having ordained a practising homosexual collapsed — not the star attraction of the LGCM's seminars today.

But the delicate *modus vivendi* has been destroyed by the pressure groups. An increasingly self-confident gay lobby is no longer satisfied with this furtive, grudging tolerance and that has led to a growing minority of gay clergy who are happy to tell, happy to be asked, openly living in same-sex relationships in their parishes. The LGCM boasts of acting as an agency, putting more than 400 homosexual and lesbian couples a year in touch with sympathetic clergy who will undertake same-sex blessings. The bishops cannot win. They have a theological position in the House of Bishops'

issues in Sexuality, which bans practising homosexuality among priests and same-sex blessings, but they cannot enforce it without a witch-hunt. They end up pronouncing platitudes about the need to combat homophobia — which without the wholehearted support of lesbians and gays is unrealistic — and the need for more debate, a disingenuous point since they have refused repeatedly to bring Issues in Sexuality before the General Synod. For the LGCM two battles beyond today's event are already looming. Next year, there is a real chance that a private member's motion in Synod will finally achieve what the bishops have been blocking and get homosexuality on to the agenda. Beyond that lies the worldwide Anglican Communion's Lambeth Conference of 1998 where American, Canadian, New Zealand and Australian bishops will be pressing Dr Carey to explain why England is trailing behind them.

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Twenty-five years after Magnus Magnusson started, the BBC has ordered him to finish. The question we're all asking now is: How did it survive so long? Simon Hattenstone on the demise of Mastermind

The Week page 17



ONE OF THE FEW THINGS older than Jack Daniel's in the state of Tennessee is the state of Tennessee. At Jack Daniel Distillery, we're proud to celebrate Tennessee's Bicentennial this year. For it wasn't long after being granted statehood that Tennessee became known as the home of Mr. Jack Daniel and his charcoal-mellowed whiskey. (We still use his method today.) Our great state has seen many changes in the past 200 years. But if you're a whiskey drinker, we think you'll be glad Jack Daniel's isn't one of them. JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

4 BRITAIN

Irony strikes as Blair meets French leaders

Michael White reports from Paris

Tony Blair yesterday warned President Chirac of France that an incoming Labour government might not be able to join the first wave of a European single currency even if it wants to — because of the level of public debt it may inherit next year.

Mr Blair repeatedly contrasted his enthusiasm for "a fresh start to our relations with Europe" with the difficulties facing a single currency. "The option to join is not closed off, but I do not hide it. There are difficulties," he told Mr Chirac at the Elysée Palace.

He expanded his theme during a lunch with business leaders. "We have made it clear that in principle we can see advantages in favour of a single currency — stability in exchange rates and lower interest rates — and we have also made it clear that, unlike the Conservatives, there is no insuperable constitutional or political objection to it."

But he hammered away at the formula agreed with key shadow cabinet colleagues that Britain's decision would be based on national economic interests at the time if he wins power next spring, and that there will have to be "genuine and sustainable convergence



Tony Blair during his meeting with the French president, Jacques Chirac, at the Elysée Palace in Paris yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: LIONEL GRONDEAU

in the way [Europe's] economies perform" if the project is not to end in disaster. Behind the rhetoric lies Mr Blair's conviction that the Cabinet has made a strategic error in deciding last week to fight what Labour believes will be a no-win battle over the European Union's directive on the 48 hour week which — President Chirac is said to have told Mr Blair — will not be resolved Britain's way in the months ahead. If Labour can focus the election campaign on "Europe, in or out" Mr Blair believes he can win on this issue.

The irony of yesterday's exchanges was not lost on either side as Mr Blair and the shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, met France's embattled conservative prime minister Alain Juppé, and later President Chirac. The French government was yesterday facing a series of half-

hearted one-day strikes in protest at its attempts to squeeze public expenditure in a political culture still to the left of New Labour. Their aim is to meet the Maastricht Treaty's financial criteria for joining the proposed single currency when it begins, if the timetable can be

met, in 1999. John Major argues that EU social policy embodied in the Social Chapter is rendering Europe uncompetitive and Mr Blair goes some way further in that direction than Mr Juppé is yet able to. With most EU states struggling to balance the books to

meet the Maastricht targets, Mr Blair and Mr Cook warned their hosts that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke's, budget deficit — down from 8 per cent of gross domestic product to nearer 4 per cent — is unlikely to fall below the required 3 per cent target before the general election.

Lib Dems deny sleaze allegations

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

ALLEGATIONS of sleaze over a Liberal Democrat 1996 lunch invitation to businessmen may be referred to the Nolan committee on standards in public life. The row centres on a letter sent out by the Liberal Democrats in July offering businessmen the chance to meet local councillors over lunch at the party conference in Brighton in September.

The party strenuously denied that this could in any way be seen as an offer of cash for contracts, but added: "If there is any residual doubt or suspicion, we are happy to submit the letter to Lord Nolan and to abide by his judgement." A spokesman for the Nolan committee said it did not investigate specific allegations but it could look at this in a general way as part of its present inquiry into local government.

He added that it was not clear if these allegations fell under the heading of local government or party funding, and there were no plans to investigate the latter this side of a general election. The Prime Minister led Tory calls for an investigation, and suggested Lord Nolan. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said the lunch invitation was "a perfectly normal thing to do. On

the face of it, I can't see a problem."

The disputed letter, written by Michael Butlin, business co-ordination manager for the Liberal Democrats, was sent out to thousands of firms. It said the lunch, at the Metropole Hotel, would provide "a buffet-style environment in which 100-plus leaders of councils can meet with the business community. These councillors all control a council, solely or with the assistance of another party."

"The cost of attending the lunch is £195 for each attendee." The letter stressed the amount of cash councils spend each year, and added: "This working lunch will provide an excellent, cost-effective method to open initial discussions on any subject whatever the size of the organisation."

A Liberal Democrat spokesman yesterday denied it had been a sleaze lunch. That figure had been to cover the cost of registering for the whole conference, and included such things as use of phones, faxes and computers. He said it was preposterous to believe that you could fix contracts over lunch. Contracts were awarded to the lowest bidder. It had all been completely open. John Major said: "Liberal Democrats have said repeatedly when these matters have arisen that they should be independently examined. I hope on this occasion they will do that."

Media rounds up the usual suspects in backstabbing

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR is threatening disciplinary action against an MP who wrote a caustic anonymous article about Tony Blair — if he can be identified.

A search for the MP was under way yesterday by both the party and political journalists. A Labour source said that if caught the MP would face loss of the whip. Different suspects emerged during the day pursued by journalists, only to be dropped after pleading innocent. The usual dissidents were cornered, such as Brian Sedgmore (Hackney South & Shoreditch), who made personal comments about Mr Blair in a book last year, but said he would have signed the article if he had written it.

There was speculation that the author was the former shadow defence secretary Denis Davis, but he also said he would have signed any piece he had written.

Andrew MacKinlay (Thurrock), a more recent maverick, said when contacted: "Not me, guv. My fingerprints are not on it." The anonymous MP suggested in Tribune that soon after the election Mr Blair would be replaced by the shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, in a coup by a coalition of dissident MPs. Tribune's editor, Mark Sedon, protected the confidentiality of the author yesterday, but denied a newspaper's suggestion that Tribune had said it was a former member of the government, which would have narrowed the search. Labour said that whoever wrote the article was woefully out of date. The present rules made it nearly impossible to change a leader.

Scott goes on the wagon as he fights to save political career

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

THE embattled Tory MP and former minister, Sir Nicholas Scott, has decided to become "absolutely teetotal" as he faces the threat of deselection by his local party in two weeks' time.

His decision to give up alcohol completely is an attempt to lay the ghost of a series of drink-related problems. In a last-ditch effort to persuade members of his Kensington and Chelsea constituency association to retain him as their MP at a crunch meeting on December 2.

In an interview published in the Guardian today, 63-year-old Sir Nicholas also complains of the "grossly unfair" treatment he received at the hands of the press at last month's Conservative Party conference, when he was found lying face-down in the gutter after drinking two glasses of wine.

The embarrassing incident triggered an emergency meeting of his local party earlier this month, at which senior party officials refused to back him as their candidate. Sir Nicholas also admits in the interview that he has no idea what he will do if he is deselected at the meeting of the wider party membership next month. It is being held at Kensington town hall — in itself bad news for Sir Nicholas as it is in a part of his constituency which is home to many of his fiercest opponents. The former minister for the disabled and for Northern Ireland, insists that his fall last month was caused by the reaction of strong painkillers with the wine he drank at an Irish Embassy reception.

Joanna Cole interview The Week, page 15

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André Malraux (right) as photographed in 1935 by Gisèle Freund and (above), minus the Gitane, on a postage stamp which forms part of the campaign.

Every Gallic government needs an intellectual on its side and the country's first culture minister, André Malraux, whose remains are to be reburied next weekend, is President Chirac's choice. Alex Duval Smith in Paris reports on how the life of a heroin-addicted, philandering bisexual is being exhumed and edited beyond credulity.



# French cultural icon gets makeover

AS Europe prepares to see out the millennium, the *fin de siècle* icon of French youth is a dead minister, pictured in monochrome on street corners and 3 franc postage stamps. The ashes of André Malraux, who died in 1976, will be placed in the Pantheon memorial in Paris next Saturday. The entire French government will be there, with writers including Mario Vargas Llosa, Saul Bellow, Vaclav Havel and V. S. Naipaul.

was Malraux who, in 1959, convinced General de Gaulle that there would be no future for France through the arts, and that "every child in France has as much right to paintings, theatre and cinema as to the alphabet". De Gaulle called Malraux his *ami général* (genius friend) since every self-respecting French govern-

ment needs an intellectual on its side, the present Gaullist president, Jacques Chirac, wants Malraux's friendship, too. But the heroin-addicted, philandering bisexual who was culture minister from 1959 to 1969 has not been easy to reinvent. The post office, eager to comply with — often flouted — laws against tobacco promotion, was

unable to find a picture in which Malraux was not smoking. So it copied a 1935 Gisèle Freund photograph and removed the Gitane. One poster, though, does show him with a cigarette. In the build-up to the Gaullist ceremony at the Pantheon — the 19th-century former church where Léon Foucault tried out his

meeting in Sarajevo last week that Malraux would have been "filled with solidarity for the Bosnian tragedy". According to scholars, the real Malraux was true to his own ideas, and said so: "My ideas are not to be thought but to be lived." He was terrified of being like "all these writers who

Malraux said he was terrified of being like 'all these writers who share the fault that they have not killed anyone'

# Telephone tappers need powerful connections

Julian Berger reports from Bucharest on how the secret police are fighting for their future alongside the ex-communists as Romania holds its second, decisive round of presidential elections tomorrow. JOURNALISTS and opposition politicians in Bucharest have become accustomed to clicks and whirs on their telephone lines, assuming them to be the noisy hallmark of the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI). But nothing could be further from the truth, insists Captain Constantin Bucur. "When we're listening to your phone line, there is no way you can tell," he maintains proudly. But, he says, the SRI is never far away. In fact, Capt Bucur — an intelligence officer turned whistle-blower — claims Romania's secret police are just as busy as they were in the communist era, when they were called the Securitate. To prove it, he has produced hours of tapes of recorded conversations between opposition politicians and their colleagues, friends and family. Capt Bucur's department listened mostly to the nationalist Greater Romania Party (PRM). The patriotic captain was so impressed by what he overheard that he defected to the PRM in May, taking his tapes with him. The SRI dismissed Capt Bucur, and has threatened to court-martial him for leaking and publishing the recordings. The SRI's director, Virgil Magureanu, insists no surveillance is carried out without legal authority. The parliamentary speaker,

Adrian Nastase, also rejects the captain's allegations. The PRM, he says, "have just found someone with radical feelings to make a noise for them". A recent parliamentary enquiry found that the SRI conducted 900 authorised phone taps in 1995, 80 per cent of them on foreigners. Mr Nastase insists the SRI is under strict parliamentary scrutiny, but Capt Bucur claims most of the surveillance he carried out, including taps on opposition newspapers, was not formally authorised but ordered directly by Mr Magureanu. "I became convinced that this man was not working for state security, that he was working for personal and political interests," Capt Bucur said. He joined the secret police in 1980 when it was the central prop underpinning the dictatorial regime of Nicolae Ceausescu. But although Ceausescu has been dead for almost seven years, the spirit and methods of the Securitate seem to live on, locked in a paranoid embrace with Romania's former communists in the Party for Social Democracy (PDSR). Now, however, the PDSR has finally faltered, losing parliamentary elections last Sunday to a centrist coalition. President Ion Iliescu is clinging on, but he will have to face a presidential run-off

tomorrow against a pro-reform challenger. If he loses that, the old guard will have fallen. Such a prospect poses a serious threat to the SRI, which — unlike communist spy networks elsewhere in eastern Europe — has yet to undergo reform or scrutiny. Two thirds of its staff are — like Capt Bucur — former Securitate officers, and its files on the communist era have remained resolutely closed. Romanians still do not know whether the bloody events of December 1989 were a real revolution or a charade manipulated by a group of communist plotters. More than a thousand civilians were shot by snipers during street protests, but none of the snipers were ever prosecuted. About a hundred suspected sharpshooters were seized, but were all released two days later without charge, and have since disappeared. No details of their identity were ever released publicly. Capt Bucur, who was assigned to an army unit in December 1989, believes the December killings were carried out by an elite armed group acting on orders from the National Salvation Front (NSF), a group of communist party members, including Mr Iliescu, which usurped power and executed Ceausescu and his wife. "They all have blood on their hands," said Capt Bucur, although he refused to go into greater detail. He warned that the secret police will attempt to manipulate the vote tomorrow to ensure Mr Iliescu holds on to his position. If the president falls, however, the truth behind the Romanian "revolution" may finally come to the surface.

# Rap singers jailed for anti-police lyrics

Paul Webster in Paris. A DECISION to jail two of France's best known rappers and ban them from singing for six months because of their anti-police lyrics has shocked human rights organisations and lawyers, but pleased the National Front and most police unions. Bruno Lopes, better known as Kool Shen, and Didier Morville (Joey Starr), are to appear against the six-month sentence, passed by a judge at Toulon, a National Front stronghold. The sentence for "verbal outrage against public authority" was the maximum possible. The two were also fined \$5,000 each. But lawyers said the judge had abused his powers by banning public appearances. The two accused are the stars of NTM or Nique ta Mère (Fuck your Mother) whose last disc, Paris under the Bombs, sold 200,000 copies. One of their concerters in a Toulon suburb in July was outlawed by the Gaullist prefect (governor) Jean-Charles Marchiani, who said the group's name implied violence while their lyrics threatened republican order. The singers, who come from a rundown Paris suburb, were not in court, saying they feared a mobbing by fans. But Kool Shen has defended the group's name, saying it was a common expression among young people. The offending rap, whose refrain promises to "pass on the brainless police machine", was published by Le Monde yesterday apparently in solidarity with the group and its defenders, who include the League of Human Rights and lawyers' unions.

# 'Bugged' Chubais faces Yeltsin funding scandal

David Hearst in Moscow. ANATOLY Chubais, the chief of Russia's presidential administration, was last night embroiled in scandal after the leak of a conversation in which he allegedly conspired to cover up millions of dollars of illegal funding for Boris Yeltsin's re-election campaign. Within hours of the publication in a Moscow newspaper of the transcript, Mr Yeltsin cancelled a planned radio address. The tape from which the transcript was taken was played on a private radio station. One of those implicated in the conversation, Sergei Krasavchenko, Mr Chubais's deputy, admitted one of the voices "sounded like" Mr Chubais but claimed the tape was a fabrication. A presidential spokesman said Mr Chubais had "categorically denied" that such a

conversation had taken place. But the contents of the tape, if verified, would be explosive and could be used to start impeachment proceedings against Mr Yeltsin. Mr Chubais, campaign co-ordinator Viktor Ilyushin and Mr Krasavchenko are said to discuss how they can hush up the arrest of two of Mr Chubais's campaign workers who had been stopped two days earlier taking \$538,000 in cash out of Russia's White House. The arrest and subsequent release of Arcady Yevstafiev and Sergei Lisovsky on June 19-20 led to a row between Mr Chubais and General Alexander Kozlov, then head of the presidential bodyguard, which ended with the dismissal of Gen Kozlov, Mikhail Barsukov, the head of the

Federal Security Service, and Oleg Soskovets, the deputy premier. The conversation allegedly took place in the president's hotel and was recorded by remote sensors on June 22, just before the second round of the presidential election. Mr Ilyushin is quoted in the transcript as recounting a conversation he had with Mr Yeltsin about the dangers of funding his campaign with cash. "I told the boss when I spoke with him yesterday, I told him: 'Boris Nikolayevich, now, if you want, you can arrest near the president's hotel at least 15 or 20 people who are carrying from our building sports bags with money.' He was sitting with a stoney face."

At one point Mr Chubais is said to discuss the possibility of smuggling Mr Yevstafiev and Mr Lisovsky out of Russia in the car of cellist and presidential supporter Mstislav Rostropovich. It was assumed yesterday that the conversation had been bugged by Gen Kozlov's men and released to discredit Mr Chubais. Sergei Baburin, deputy Speaker in the Duma, said that if the transcript is genuine then the scandal "may undermine the entire constitutional order". The Speaker, Gennady Seleznyov, said it shows how much "everything here is fragile and corrupt". Tension was high in the Russian capital, Minsk, last night, as opposition deputies claimed President Alexander Lukashenko was staging a state coup. Troops surrounded the central election commission after throwing out its chairman days before a referendum is due on increased presidential power.

# Castro keeps the Pope waiting

John Hooper in Rome. FIDEL CASTRO again failed to show up at the World Food Summit yesterday, prompting speculation about the reasons for his absence. The Cuban leader had been due to address the conference yesterday afternoon, and was expected to hold an historic reconciliation with the Pope during his stay in Rome.

But yesterday the Vatican's spokesman claimed the Pope's secretariat had still not received a request for an audience — and a Cuban diplomat said the island's leader would "perhaps" arrive today. Christine Graves, a spokeswoman for the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the Rome-based United Nations agency which is staging the summit, said the Cuban authorities had blamed their

leader's absence on bad weather which has struck the island in recent days, leaving thousands homeless. However, at least three commercial flights left the island early yesterday. And at Rome's Fiumicino airport an official said weather conditions over Cuba were "such as to delay a flight, but not to force it to be cancelled". It meanwhile emerged that the Archbishop of Havana, Monsignor Jaime Ortega, had

returned to Cuba from the Vatican last Monday. He could have been expected to be present at an audience with the Pope, and his presence in Rome was one reason for speculation that a meeting had been fixed. Vatican sources said it would be difficult to arrange any meeting until Monday. The pontiff has a full agenda today and has only once been known to grant an audience on a Sunday.

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# Feeding looters may be key to Zaire peace

Dole Olojede in Kisangani

A MAN of God seized a microphone and yelled into the darkness of the pre-dawn hours, calling for help to fend off looters trying to break into the Catholic compound. In this town of more than 350,000, a few hundred people responded to the priest's cry — and for once they succeeded in driving off marauding soldiers from their own army. But only for once. An army in disarray is delivering the final blows to this prostrate frontier town deep in the Zairean rainforest. Orbits of looting, wild gunbattles between units of the same army, random killings and a desperate shortage of food have besieged the city. The fall of Goma and other eastern towns to Zairean rebels appears to have set off a domino effect which is now being felt in the vast hinterland of this unwieldy country. In addition to more than 1 million Rwandan Hutu refugees dispersed about eastern Zaire, hundreds of thousands of Zaireans are believed to have been displaced by the fighting. Terrorised by the retreating army, almost all villages and towns along the 375 miles

of rutted highway between Kisangani and Goma are reported to have emptied. Villagers have fled into the forest, and are slowly making their way towards Kisangani. Stragglers arriving in bands of tens and twenties say they left dying relatives by the roadside. Aid workers and diplomats struggling to reach the displaced say the road to Goma is ruled by soldiers-turned-bandits, and littered with vehicles left by the defeated army of President Mobutu Sese Seko as it fled westward into the Zairean hinterland. A French diplomat is working with local army commanders and surviving businesses to send a convoy of food, fuel and supplies down this road. The aim is to satisfy the looting lust of the soldiers, perhaps luring them back into Kisangani from where — with any luck — they can be reassembled. After that, relief workers would secure relatively safe access to the displaced Zaireans as well as the Rwandan refugees who ran from the victorious rebels and are now believed to be scattered to the west of Goma near the towns of Masini and Walikale. The policy has the backing of some locals, including Mokeni Ekopi Raymond, who

chairs the Kisangani chamber of commerce and is a leading organiser of the proposed convoy. He has sought to prevent looting by distributing free food to the soldiers and has been on air to appeal for calm. "The fact is that you have all these soldiers coming in and they need food, too," said Jerry Selenke, an American Catholic priest who runs logistics operations for local churches and aid agencies. "If you don't feed them, all hell is going to break loose." This is the dangerous and unstable environment into which foreign troops will shortly plunge. The multinational intervention force will find that all order has broken down, that no effective government exists, that large population shifts have displaced communities, and that heavily armed militias and a disintegrating army have created incredible chaos. "The convoy is for the looters, to get them out of the way," said a senior French diplomat. "We give them food. We give them petrol so they can come here to sell the cars they have stolen, which gives a chance for them to be sent back to the camp. After they are out of the way, then we take in the supplies to the population." — Newsday.



A boy looks at the bodies of two relatives killed by Zairean rebels at the Mugunga camp in eastern Zaire. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID GUTTENFELDER

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## Press savaging riles Mandela

David Beresford in Johannesburg

RELATIONS between the South African press and Nelson Mandela nosedived yesterday when one of the country's biggest newspapers denounced him for "smearing" black journalists. The Johannesburg Star accused the president of "tainting both himself and the country" and of being unbalanced and ridiculous. The editorial was written in response to a speech made by Mr Mandela on Wednesday in which he said the "white-controlled conservative media" were co-opting senior black journalists to attack fellow blacks in the African National Congress to avoid racism charges. The Star's black political editor, Kaiser Nyatumba, has criticised his "autocratic" leadership and said in a radio broadcast that it may be due to "growing senility". South Africa's biggest black newspaper, City Press — owned by an African publishing house — has criticised Mr Mandela for taking his conciliatory approach to rightwing whites too far. But the president's anger was seemingly triggered by a

## News in brief

### UN rapporteur warns Israel on torture

A LEADING member of the United Nations anti-torture body yesterday criticised an Israeli court decision allowing police to use physical force against a Palestinian detainee, saying it risked sanctioning torture. Israel's high court on Thursday overturned an interim court order forbidding the Shin Bet secret police from using physical force against a Palestinian detainee. Israeli media reports said the detainee was a member of the militant Islamic Jihad group and had information about attacks planned against Israeli targets. Peter Burns, a Canadian senior member of the UN human rights body's torture committee and its rapporteur for Israel, said: "It is particularly disappointing that such a civilised society as Israel should feel the need to resort to such measures even in the face of imminent danger." — *Reuters, Geneva.*

### Indian Maoists kill 14

MAOIST revolutionaries blew up a police station in the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh yesterday, killing 14 people, before escaping with rifles and ammunition. Thirty fighters from the banned People's War group, which has called on landless peasants to rise up for nearly 50 years, carried out the raid in the town of Sirpur. They shot the local police chief and engaged police in an hour-long shoot-out before dynamiting the station. Thirteen police and a prisoner in the cells were killed. The group murdered 84 police, landowners and liquor vendors in the first six months of the year, police said. — *Suzanne Goldberg, New Delhi.*

### Bosnia paves way for arms

BOSNIA'S president, Alija Izetbegovic, yesterday bowed to United States pressure to fire two senior defence officials, including one with strong ties to Iran, clearing the way for delivery of a huge shipment of US arms, a US envoy said. "President Izetbegovic informed us [he would] remove Deputy Minister Hasan Cengic and Minister Vladimir Saljic from office," the US special envoy, James Pardner, said. Meanwhile, the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, was reported to be seriously ill with cancer. He was admitted to a Washington hospital for treatment, CNN said yesterday, citing US government sources. — *Reuters, Sarajevo and Washington.*

### Shipping tycoon leads ballot

THE shipping tycoon Tung Chee-hwa vying to take over as leader when Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule next year opened up a commencing lead in the first stage of balloting yesterday. Three contenders won the 50 votes needed to go through to the second ballot next month, but Mr Tung polled 308 votes in the 400-member committee set up by China. The former chief justice Yi Liang Yang won 82 votes, and the businessman Peter Woo won 54. — *Reuters, Hong Kong.*

### Swiss girl killed by bomb

A 13-year-old Swiss girl was killed yesterday and her mother severely injured when a parcel bomb the girl found in their post-box exploded in their home in Buchs, on the Austrian border, police said. Another bomb exploded the same afternoon in a grocer's shop in Flawil, about 50 miles from Buchs. Police in the northern canton of St Gall, who are not treating the blasts as linked, said: "Nothing is known yet about the perpetrators or their motive." — *Reuters, Zurich.*

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Oliver Anderson

# Stirring things in a Grantham teacup

**A** RADIO programme once voted Grantham's "Most Boring Town in the Country". It was not ever thus. In 1937 the Grantham Journal carried the headline "Excitement in Grantham", though it could as well have been "Storm in Teacup". The story begins "Grantham is agog." The cause of the excitement was a comic novel called *Rotten Borough* by an author using the pen-name Julian Pine. "Grantham thinks it recognises itself as the 'Rotten Borough'," wrote the Journal. "It thinks it recognises some of its eminent burghers in the story..." And finally, Grantham thinks it knows who Mr Julian Pine is, that he is the son of a person in the district. "There were plans for an 'Indignation meeting' at which a mass libel action against the author would be organised."

The novel exposes in farcical form the corruption of small-town politics. In *Rotten Borough* there is a bigwig called Colonel Barlow who had been to Harrow. In real life the Lord Lieutenant was a Squadron-Leader who had been to Eton. He was also Keeper of the Rolls, Custer Rotterlorum, a title which seems to contain an echo of Rotten Borough. Furthermore he was Personal Lord-in-Waiting to King Edward VIII. In short, he was a very big cheese in those pre-war semi-feudal days. The publishers panicked, withdrew the book (which had been selling quite briskly for a few weeks), apologised to the Mayor of Grantham and the local MP, and revealed to a number of what the Grantham Journal calls "other personages". The local paper also reported the proceedings of the Grantham Council, in which a Councillor Roberts was eloquent about the expenditure on cats for the horses engaged in work for the highway committee. In the same issue of the paper there is an advertisement for *FINEST SELECTED XMAS FRUITS*

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All Anderson wanted was a comfortable armchair, a warm fire, a life of peace and reason, eggs, toast and smoky China tea

shares in the gas company and makes sure one of the lamps is erected smack outside his shop, assuring passers-by a good view of his passages, panicles and brawns. All goes well until one evening the Naughty Councillor locks up and induces a young lady shop assistant to "serve behind the counter in a rather unusual way". Unfortunately for the councillor he has forgotten to draw the blinds. The gas-lamps suddenly come on and "several House-Wives of the Lower Classes, whose faces were pressed against the windows covering the Park Place they could not afford to buy, saw Everything. So the Naughty Councillor was in more than one way undone and he had to resign from the Town Council and finally he hanged himself with a pair of Woodworth's braces in a Public Conveniences. People who live in Glass Houses should never forget to Draw the Blinds." The highly satisfying conclusion to the

book has the Lord Lieutenant, the Mayor, the MP and most of the councillors arrested for fraud and sent to jail. The key to Orson Welles's Citizen Kane was a toboggan called Rosebud. When I first heard of this marvellously idiosyncratic book I wondered whether it might likewise prove a key to the mental processes of Mrs Thatcher. It can hardly have gone unnoticed in the Roberts household. The first problem was to find a copy. It wasn't in the British Library catalogue (which is extraordinary) and when I did track down a copy in a library it was kept under lock and key like a wild beast. The suppression of the book was very effective. The next step was to find the author. Having discovered that Julian Pine was Oliver Anderson I

spent a lot of time with Directory inquiries before tracking him down, alive and well and living — where else? — just outside Grantham. The Thatcher connection had aroused my curiosity, but what it led me to was much more interesting. *Rotten Borough* is a farce, a romp, a hoot. It's the work of a clever, witty and sophisticated young man. It is quick-witted, very bawdy, very funny and mocks everyone in sight without respect for sex, race, colour, creed or anything else. This fine comic novel disappeared totally for half a century. I am much pleased that my Guardian article led to the book being re-published in 1989 under the author's true name and to widespread interest. Anderson, who has died aged 94, was the son of a Lincolnshire parson straight out of *Tristram Shandy*. He was Rector of Little Ponton, near Grantham, and he once rode to church on a pig. Funnily enough his address for



Oliver Anderson... a mischievous twinkle in the eye and a rather dandy-ish moustache

Chris Prater

# First editions of an adventure story

**F**IRST met the screenwriter Chris Prater, who had died aged 72, one sunny Saturday morning in October 1988 at Kelpra Studio, then a converted house just off London's Old Street. I had come for an interview for a studio assistant's job. Chris was like that for the next 25 years during which we were friends and colleagues, and he never did ask me for any qualifications.

Even in retrospect into very modern circumstances he left school at 14. Like all young men of his generation he soon found himself conscripted into the services, before really knowing what he wanted to do. After the war he took up screenwriting, initially as he put it, "as something to do". I don't

think at that stage he was ever truly in love with the medium, but he was probably always in love with art (Some years before he had attended the working man's college, drawing and painting in the evenings).

He married Rose Kelly in 1968 and in 1967 they set up business together as commercial screenwriters. They traded under the name of Kelpra. It was a combination of both surnames. They were quite inseparable, living and working together until Rose's death in 1982. It was in 1968 that they printed the poster for the Young Contemporaries exhibition. That in turn led to regular work for the Arts Council, and in 1961 Gordon House commissioned Chris to print a series of square grids.

It marked the beginning of the great adventure into "Artist's Prints". In 1962 Richard Hamilton selected a group of young artists to produce one print each to form a portfolio for the Institute of Contemporary Arts. The ICA project proved a turning point for the studio. I can never remember Chris talking to anyone about Kelpra's history without going into great detail about the Kelpra prints with obvious pleasure. It is quick-witted, very bawdy, very funny and mocks everyone in sight without respect for sex, race, colour, creed or anything else. This fine comic novel disappeared totally for half a century. I am much pleased that my Guardian article led to the book being re-published in 1989 under the author's true name and to widespread interest.

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Richard Boston  
Oliver Charles Anderson, novelist, born September 30, 1912; died October 19, 1996

wide reputation and that he was a "someone in the art world". It was something he always seemed uneasy about and that sometimes led to a fair amount of "bluster" on his part — which could give people the wrong impression. But he was always happy when we were in the studio or sitting in his smoke filled office drinking tea and talking art and what screenprinting was like in the old days. An incurable experimenter, Chris would drive me to distraction at times, but I came to realise that this was his great strength and it made all things possible, as indeed did our process photographer Dennis Francis whom Chris had made employed in the very early 1960s. Chris, myself, Dennis, and my good friend Nigel Oxley — who was responsible for the etching — formed the core of Kelpra, but none of us would have made our mark if it had not been for the faith Chris showed in our ability. After Kelpra closed, about five years ago, I lost touch with Chris. We didn't speak until a few months before his death. Our conversation was, as always, about the old days. I am sure Chris enjoyed every minute of them — I know I did.

Belinda Quirey

# Chocolate biscuits from a dance doyenne

**F**OR dance historian and teacher Belinda Quirey, who has died aged 84, just to translate an original dance manuscript was pointless. It also had to be presented practically, and danced at the highest possible level. Thus she choreographed Rameau's *Hippolyte et Aricie* for Birmingham University using 18th century dance technique and style, and thus she influenced many of today's directors, actors and singers in the art of period movement.

Among the places where she taught were the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, the London Academy of Music and Dance, the Guildhall School of Music and Dance. She inspired all her many pupils, who are now scattered all over the world, and her classes and work were never dull. While working with her for the English Bach festival, the dancers must have consumed their combined weight eating the chocolate digestive biscuits she provided. "Oh darling!" she confided, "there is nothing better than a digestive biscuit to soothe their poor tormented souls."

One RADA student, now an Anglican canon, was given unorthodox advice when tiredness rendered him incapable of obtaining the posture she wanted. "Think that you have a lemon between your buttocks and squeeze hard." He assures me that whenever he starts to feel lethargic he remembers Belinda and her lemons and squeezes hard.

Quirey was born in Northern Ireland, but educated in England where her father was director of a railway company. Her career began with her lifelong passion, ballroom dancing, as a pupil of Eve Tynegate-Smith and she started professionally as the Gleneagles Hotel's ballroom coach. After studying modern dance with Rudolf Von Laban, and classical ballet with Laura Wilson, she found her niche through answering an advertisement in the Times. It offered a week's engagement as a guinea pig to put into practice the new researched material of Melusina Wood, a pioneer in the field of historical dance. For the rest of her life she was involved in what she called early dance. Should anybody be unfortunate enough to drop the term "historical dance" in her presence a loud scream would ensue, followed by a lecture. If there was such an animal, she would ask, why wasn't music of the past "historical" too?

"The dance world was very slow in accepting her findings. At a dance congress one famous teacher labelled them 'a figment of Belinda's more than vivid imagination'. She was underterred. Her husband, James Kelly, predeceased her. They had no children.

Face to Faith

# Why Islam is really a women-friendly religion

**A**hmed Versal  
THE media has portrayed an image of the Taliban's oppression of women which Westerners have found fascinating and horrifying. What is overlooked is the long history of Islam's gender equality and the many examples around the world of how Islam continues to promote women's opportunities.

Shahkha Shuhda, known as Fakhr al-Nisa, living in the 11th century, was well known in literature, rhetoric, poetry, and history. She gave public lectures in the mosque of Baghdad attended by many "doctors" (scholars). Shahkha Shuhda granted diplomas to many famous men of her time. In the spiritual field, Rabi'a al-Adawiyyah, a great sufi of Basra in the eighth century, infused the concept of divine love with such intensity that she devoted her whole life to contemplation of God. Khadija, wife of the Prophet, was a very successful trader. She used her wealth in the way of Islam by helping the poor, in freeing slaves, and propagating the message of the nascent religion. Khadija was one of many women at that time who ran their own businesses.

the seventh century right through to the end of the Ottoman empire. For example, Umar Ibn al-Khattab, the second caliph, consulted both Shifa bint Abdullah and Samara bint Nuhayk, who worked as inspectors in the market of Medina. Women were among the first Muslims who were forced to leave their homes because of persecution and then spread the message of Islam. They were also among the first martyrs. In the Qur'an, the main source for Islamic teachings, men and women have absolute parity: "The true believers, both men and women, are friends to each other, they enjoin what is just and forbid what is evil, they attend to their prayers and pay the alms-tax and obey God and his Apostle." The only characteristic which distinguishes and differentiates between human be-

ings in the Qur'an is piety. "Men and women, we have created you from a male and female and divided you into nations and tribes that you might get to know one another, the noblest amongst you in God's sight is he who fears Him most." Both men and women are encouraged to acquire knowledge. The Prophet has said: "The quest for knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim (men and women)." Do we find the high status and equal treatment of women that Islam prescribes? Not in the West — a created and sponsored Taliban where women are barred from participating in public life. NOR can we find it in the country which prides itself on more than 70 years of secularism and "women's emancipation". Muslim women are not allowed to work in government offices, the civil service, government hospitals and the judiciary. They are also forbidden from teaching in government universities. Nor can they take up a seat in the parliament. Why? Because they wear the hijab (headscarf). Yet there are countries where Islamic Law is imple-

mented where the women are empowered. In Sudan, there are 21 women in the parliament. The highest judicial Court — the highest judiciary body in Sudan — has three female judges; in the British equivalent body, there are none. These women earn the same pay as their male counterparts: a total of 70 women work in the judiciary. Nor is there any bar against women obtaining positions of power and serving in government. Professor Sir el Nafar Badr, for example, chairs the Industrial Committee of the National Assembly with 40 men working under her. Yet this is a country where Islamic law is implemented. So where does the stereotyping of Islam as oppressive to women originate? Why does it receive such attention in the Western media? And why is so little attention given to Islamic countries where women do participate fully in public life? Could it be that the answers to these questions lie in political expediency and a historical desire for the West's political hegemony over the resource-rich Islamic world rather than in a genuine desire to see women uplifted?

Weekend Birthdays



What must it be like to be a character from one of your father's novels, as is Amber Alexander Waugh, 57 tomorrow? And not a hero, but a minor character: wasn't Bron one of those gingerish, lickerish, scoldily vainglorious chaps in the lit-mag line whom Basil Flagg met in Put Out More Flags. Just before the outbreak of war? The classy female lit-mag entourage which attends Bron's crowned state at the Literary Review resemble the early culture-groups Guy Crutchback encounters in blacked-out London. And the chronicles of Bron's life in Somerset are obviously an extension of Boot's nature notes from Scoop with humans replacing voles questing in the

plushy fens around Taunton. He re-uses father's pre-war vocabulary, especially the word "disquise"; lives in father's house; considered admission to his father's club. White's; and wants to be remembered "as a significant patriarch in a continuing dynasty". And yet... and yet — in his autobiography, the most vivid page recalls that day in the bare deserts of post-war austerity when England's children were issued with a banana each — one wonderful unknown yellow luxury — and pan Evelyn Waugh commanded his children's treats and ate them before their faces.

Today's birthdays: Prof Chinua Achebe, novelist, poet and educationalist, 66; Charles Bailey, editor, Marie Claire, 38; Michael Billington, writer and critic, 57; Frank Bruno, boxer, 35; Willie Carson, Jockey, 54; Graft Vhys Jones, comedian, writer, 33; Prof Sir Magdi Yacoub, cardiothoracic surgeon, 61; Waqar Younis, cricketer, 25; Michael Zander, Professor of Law, LSE, 61.

Tomorrow's other birthdays: Lesley Abdela, founder, 300 Group for women in politics and public life, 51; Sir Jeremy

Life, the universe and waffle

I ALWAYS look forward to reading the load of waffle responding to Richard Dawkins' thoughts (A hunger for wonder, November 13). Thursday's letters lived up to expectations. Philip Lloyd Lewis rolled out the old lie that science attempts to prove that the universe is an orderly place...

WHAT a load of Godswallop in response to Dawkins' essay by Philip Lloyd Lewis (Letters, November 14). So the law of gravity is just a conjuring trick? Then I must be mistaken in having always thought it a natural law...

The limits of alcohol

SHOULD people be barred from jobs as a result of one blood test for alcohol? The result of the television executive's action against a company doctor who diagnosed him unsuitable for work with NBC Europe...



AND THESE ARE DEFINITELY REPRODUCTIONS...

FOLLOWING the rejection of an ad for underpants by the Committee of Advertising Practice (Warning over men's briefs ad "sexist", November 13), may I draw your attention to a letter in the Lancet of June 22...

Taste of his own medicine

I FROY Lilley (Doctoring the system, November 13) had done his homework he would have discovered that most of the extra payments he identifies that GPs may claim are included in the target net income...

No one should minimise the deadly effects of alcohol. About 20,000 deaths a year are alcohol-related (including 10 deaths a week from drink driving) and nearly a quarter of all male admissions to hospitals has an alcohol element...

Compare this to the American approach - both private and federal. Over one million federal employees were drawn into test programmes - for drugs as well as alcohol - during the 1980s. Workers are expected to urinate on demand by officials given the Orwellian title of "collection site person"...

Peak practice

ANOTHER MANIFESTO

ROAD accidents are quickly cleaned up - so we forget about the risks. Instead we should install a new type of street sign at particularly dangerous spots. They would state (with families' permission) the names and ages of those killed in recent years...

A Guardian addict writes

MY RETURN flight from Pakistan gave me my first opportunity for 10 days to see a London newspaper. Keen to read the major news stories about real life in Britain, I grabbed last Thursday's Guardian...

Getting all worked up about work in the course of 48 hours

HUGO Young's opposition to any limitation on working hours in the European Union (Commentary, November 12) has a familiar ring. The 1833 Act limiting the work of children under 13 to 48 hours a week was strongly opposed by an alliance of Radicals and Tories united by a belief that, as Cobden put it, "the industrial welfare of England depended on 30,000 little girls..."

PLEASE allow a response to Roy Lilley's comical and nonsensical broadside against general practitioners. It appears to suffer from compulsive obsessive disorder with hatred for thousands of hard-working doctors in the NHS...

The first task in Zaire

WHEN we see images of hungry people being beaten back from UN food warehouses, our instinct is to deliver aid. But in some 1.5 million lives in Central Africa now depend on a response, while many more will be involved in chaos and deprivation should we not act...

A Country Diary

MACENILLEITH: On a sunny November morning I write this on a hill-top high above the sea in Cardigan Bay. Yet today it is not the sea I look at so much as the land. From my high perch I see most of the parish in which I live on the south side of the Dyfi estuary...

Digital dictator

Mr Murdoch needs competition: now THE GOVERNMENT has on our behalf - though without actually asking us - turned down the BBC's request for its television licence fee increased. But people, as individuals, seem ready to pay ever increasing sums to watch television as the industry prepares to enter the digital age...

Fergie's fall from grace - and her golfball



Mark Lawson

FOR SOME weeks, I have spent quiet moments trying to predict the opening line of the autobiography of Sarah, Duchess of York. Fergie's history suggested that humility and apology were unlikely. Defiance or denial seemed more her style: "Everything I did, I did for my country", perhaps, or, "The day that I asked Johnny Bryan to get a splinter out of my toe beside the pool was the day it all went wrong".

skill for orchestrating debacles. Her every appearance excites the public what they liked about the other one. The princess was regarded as sexy; the duchess as sexual. Diana is a genius at public relations; Fergie a maestro in the media. She is all up with sentimentality but effective stuff about the need to give children hugs. Fergie's attempted imitation - "A smile takes a minute and costs very little" - simply makes you wonder how many people grin and what spendthrift Fergie would be doing with something inexpensive...

question slightly differently - "Did you ever think of doing away with yourself?" - she again answered, "Can't even spell the word", creating an effect reminiscent of the Two Ronnies sketch in which a man always answers the question before last. (Some one-liners, apparently prepared for speech at a lecture, were hastily adapted to interview format: "I stand here for the truth," he told Sue MacGregor. "I, er, sit here for the truth.") The book and the interviews leave little doubt that Sarah, Duchess of York, was born with a self-destruct button. Her unfortunate taste in clothes and home decoration was mirrored in her selection of friends. She still seems to think the story is that she was let down by Madame Vasso, Bryan and Starke, but the real story is that she ever let them up.



صكرا من الامل

# The hunting of the quark of politics

**Commentary**  
**Martin Woollacott**

IT HAS long been accepted, in science, that the act of measurement can alter the thing being measured. Laymen grope with the notion of particles so elusive and changeable that capturing them for a millisecond is a triumph. Something similar is beginning to happen in politics, where the hunting of the quark, defined as the momentary mood of the public, has become so central an activity.

Both took money in even larger amounts than in the past from domestic and foreign companies and groups. This buying your own deregulation or buying your own foreign policy is of course outrageous. It is also wrong that these bribes should be passed on to the media, mainly television, in the form of payment for political advertising, and to the growing industry of political investigation and opinion management with its pollsters, consultants, campaign planners, and focus-group impresarios.

The public wants to know what the politicians represent and how to react to the political scene, and takes its cue from the media, from which it picks up, ready made, all kinds of formulae for expressing political views. The media want to offer themselves as critics of the political class and as experts on public opinion. At each point of the triangle there is an attempt to measure the others — and modify behaviour accordingly — but the actors, whether politicians, press, or public, are no longer autonomous.

There is a hunger for authenticity as the number of confected political appeals increases. An overwhelming concentration on what will play well and a need to try to establish what that is in advance is evident among new politicians. Some would see politics infected by the entertainment industry, functioning like a fearful Hollywood trying to repeat last year's hits and changing the ending of films if the try-out audiences react badly. It is not so much that parties, in the quaint phrase

used when discussing these subjects 20 years ago, have had to adapt themselves to the "television age". That suggests politicians working from a stout agenda which they then have to translate into the requisite soundbites, rebuttals and discourses on newness. No, the suspicion grows that the solid agenda has become diffuse, a product of the efforts to ascertain and play to public feeling, and that the message, in other words, has become the medium.

## Shared memory of loss



Martin Kettle

FOR connoisseurs of this newspaper quite the most remarkable event of this week took place behind our own closed doors and went properly unreported in the following day's edition. Nevertheless, in my dozen years at the paper I have never known the like of it. Every morning the Guardian holds a meeting in the editor's office. It is known universally as the 10.30, though it normally takes place at about 20 to 11. It's both a post-mortem on last night's paper and an early discussion about tonight's edition. People explain what is planned for the various bits of the paper and there's a general discussion about longer-term ideas.

those on the left who will offer a facile explanation. They will see it as just another in a long line of compromises with the culture of the English establishment. Probably some will say that it proves what they have suspected about the Guardian all along. Others on the right will take the opposite view, surprised by an anecdote that runs counter to their stereotypical view of this newspaper as a home for dedicated subversives and inveterate iconoclasts. And there are certainly those who think it only goes to show the cultural power of the tabloids which have done so much to flump up the campaign for a national stoppage on November 11.

# How BBC drama is being neutered

Alan Plater knows a bit about the world of plays for TV and radio, and he's convinced that the Birtan BBC-management revolution is making that world a hard and deeply depressing — if sometimes laughable — place

THE SPIN doctors at BBC Television Centre will, no doubt, have spotted another letter to the Guardian from the Writers' Guild of Great Britain and filed it under PW for Predictable Whinge. It has happened before, during the Strange Case of the Disappearing Script Unit and The Inexplicable Affair of Extending Choice, and it will no doubt happen again.

Our problem, as writers, is that we ask silly questions like why, if they are called reforms, do they always make things worse? The Health Service, state education, public transport and a huge range of public institutions have all been reformed, to Hell and back during the last 15 years and we are still being assured that the improvements will begin to bite in the next week or 10 days.



Moving on to the 250 promises, I cannot tell a lie. I haven't read them; I'm still trying to finish *Extending Choice*. I freely acknowledge that these promises have been made because Virginia Bottomley requested something of the sort from the Corporation: a mission statement, no less. But what happens next? Will writers have to learn the promises and recite them before work every day like we used to at pack meetings

dramatised some of the Dalziel and Pascoe novels by Reginald Hill. Essentially, it's a cop show. Dalziel is an old-style copper who wears like an old-style copper. One of the many joys of the books is Dalziel's creative use of the profane. Mamet and Tarantino win awards for this class of work.

Presumably when the BBC agreed to do the series, someone read the books. It should therefore have been no surprise when the scripts arrived, lightly garbled with buggery and sods. We had taken our concessions and had made out the ficks, since we knew the show was destined for BBC1 where fuck is forbidden, unless you are Billy Connolly. Yes, Nancy, it is condescending.

Each script is sent to the Head of Something in London (I've christened him the Head of Buggery and Blasphemy)

days, you wait six weeks for someone to return a phone call, and once you embark on the writing process, there will be a long line of important people standing between the words and the screen: producer, co-producer, associate producer, director, script editor, departmental head, programme controller and the man in charge of sweating, of whom more later. Yet we are assured, the BBC is now more assured, the BBC is now more assured. Speaking as one who once won a prize in O-level maths, let me state, categorically, that eight people will always cost more than one.

when we were in the Cuts? The Cuts, in any case, managed with one all-embracing promise. Christianity has trouble enough with 10 commandments. In my dreams I hear a jazz musician saying: "That's a whole gang of promises you've got there, Birt baby."

A good deal of the public debate has been concerned with sex, violence and language, and it might illuminate the discussion if I reveal how the latter problem is currently dealt with on the shop floor. My most recent work for BBC television, has been to

nobody communicated any of this directly to the writers — Malcolm Bradbury and myself — and we only know what we read in the papers.

We are now in production with a second series and there is a procedure. Each script is sent from Pebble Mill in Birmingham to the Head of Something in London (I've christened him the Head of Buggery and Blasphemy) with all the swear-words highlighted. He then sends a memo to the production office with alternatives where he feels the sensibilities of the nation might be at risk. Delete "wankers" — insert "tossers"; delete "Jesus Christ" — insert "bloody hell"; delete "cobblers" — insert "crap"; and so on.

I quote directly from my fax on the subject: "P25 — I find it incomprehensible that we can have a bestard, son and tosser, but not pillock, which has a noble lineage and makes a sweet and harmless sound. It was good enough for Shakespeare — 'Pillock sat on Pillock-hill' (in King Lear) and I think we could fight for this one."

Eventually I won my pillock by trading it for a bugger on page 101. In a subsequent episode a serial thief known as the Pisser had become the Micturator, the last time I glimpsed the script. This kind of time-wasting, monotonous nonsense is the logical conclusion of putting your faith in management strategies and mission statements.

THE brutal fact is that most of the people working for the BBC are less concerned with keeping promises than with keeping their jobs. That is the underlying premise of the current bout of missionary zeal: sacking a few thousand people to help pay for the digital-information revolution where, naturally enough, the BBC wants to be at the cutting edge, whatever that means.

In the midst of all this talk, one question remains unasked and therefore unanswered. What is the information we are going to share? Are there some tablets of stone, previously hidden in a vault or buried on a mountain-side, that will transform our existence and carry us into the new millennium with a whole new range of insights into the human condition? Answers on a postcard please.

The conclusion is simple enough: the BBC is confused and frightened. It's nothing to be ashamed of. Also among the confused and fearful are ITV, Channel 4, and all our national institutions including the royal family and both political parties.

Perhaps long ago on the Manchester Guardian between the wars they used to pause for their labours at this hour too. But I am not aware that such a moment was observed here within many people's living memory. On the whole, I think the culture of the Guardian used to be unspokenly anti-popple and official remembrance.

Last year, we wrote an editorial supporting the idea of a national silence. However, since November 11 fell on a Saturday in 1986, this year was the first time we had been called upon to put our silence where our mouth is. I hadn't expected it and, perhaps because we all caught ourselves slightly by surprise, we all stayed silently seated last Monday. Next year maybe we will stand up, as we should.

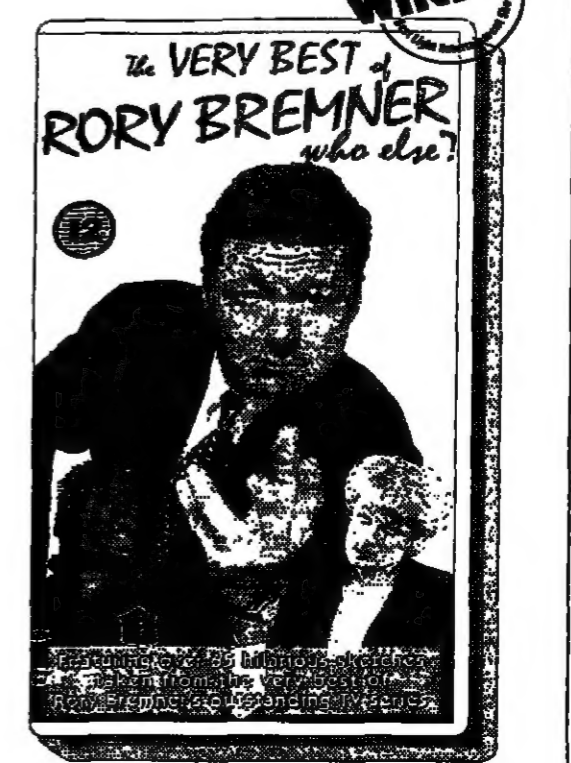
In itself this little act of observance was unimportant to the future of the world. But I think it was nevertheless a small indicative act of our country and our times. Something has changed — something which allowed the suggestion that he did and which encouraged the otherwise bolshie, cynical and opinionated crew who attend such meetings to participate without awkwardness. Doubtless there will be

the perceived solution, to climb behind barricades of unpronounceable managerial jargon masquerading as intellectual analysis, is not good enough. Beyond that, the apparent urge to embrace the market forces (or capitalism as we used to call it) in search of essential virtue is doomed from the first. The market forces have no conscience: ask Baring's bank. In any case, Rupert Murdoch is the smartest operator in the village and has a firm grasp on the Marxist principle of controlling the means of distribution. What the BBC still has is a production capacity, a talent base and more residual loyalty than it deserves.

How about this as an alternative promise? We, the BBC, will honour the central principle of public broadcasting by making programmes which place the needs of the audience first. We will do so by trusting the imagination of the programme-makers and the imagination of the audience. We are sure and certain knowledge that in the long run nothing else matters a damn.

Sign here.  
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## THERE'S NO IMPERSONATING THIS GREAT NEW VIDEO



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THIS WEEK'S essayist, Alan Plater, trained as an architect before becoming a full-time writer in 1960. His television work has ranged from 2 Cars and *Barbaric* Chronicles to *A Very British Coup* and *The Soldier's Boy*. His awards include *Baftas*, an *Emmy*, the *RTS Writers' Award* and the *Golden Fleece of Georgia*. He has also written for screen, theatre and radio.

Greek stock market crisis may lead to a new dawn

The Delta affair may be good news for more open share dealing in the future. JOHN HOOPER investigates

GRECE's reputation as one of the most exciting markets took a ravaging this week when a brokers' boycott kept the Athens stock exchange closed until Wednesday...

Sources close to the market said the firm's default was linked to the abrupt rise and fall of shares in a textiles company, Magriza...

Minister seeks link-up on defence

Rühe sets out his battle plan

David Gow in Bonn

DICK Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace, would be delighted if he could listen into Volker Rühle, German defence minister...

governor Chris Patten and amused observer of his British counterpart Michael Portillo, believes European defence firms have to go way beyond the current phase of specific joint ventures and tie-ups.

countries would be well-placed to provide the unique arms project - Germany, for instance, the successor to the Leopard 2 tank.

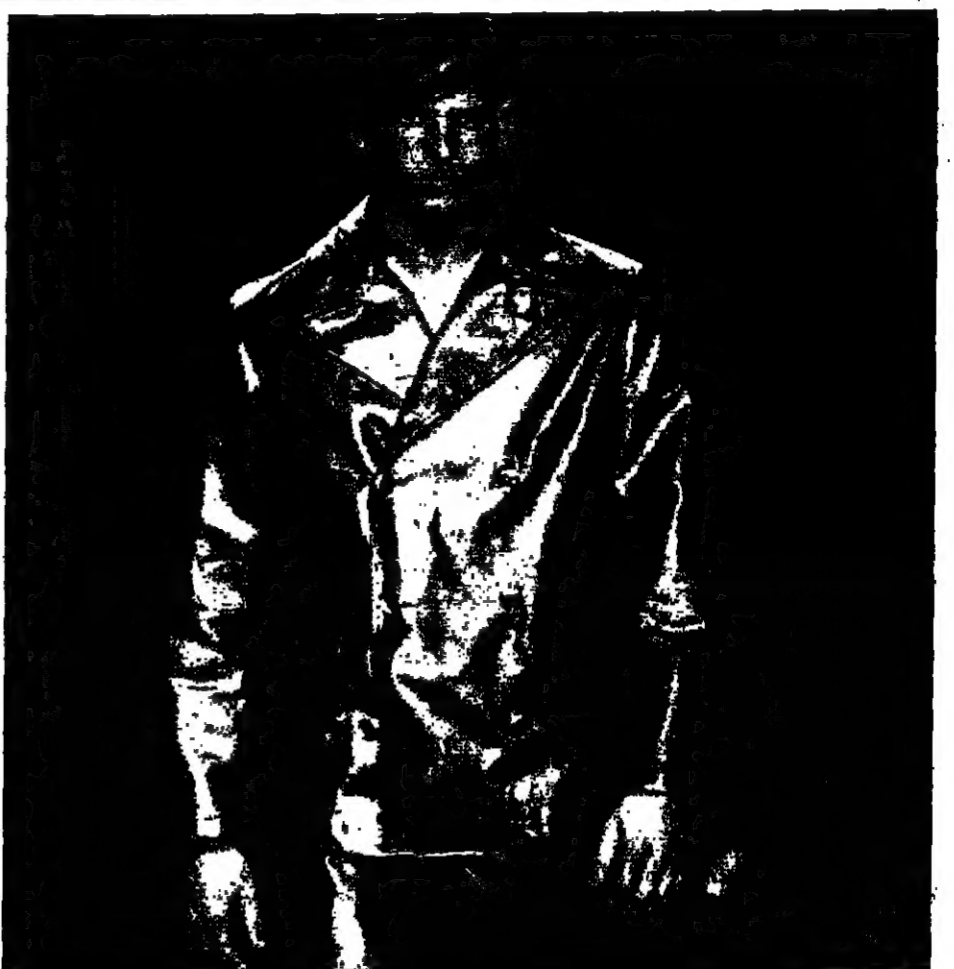


Understated... Werner Baldessarini

Suits of silk to seduce the stylish

Hugo Boss brings up-market line to Britain, reports JULIA GIERTZ

TASTE, curiosity and a passion for cloth are vital prerequisites for any fashion designer, and Werner Baldessarini, deputy chief executive of men's fashion supplier Hugo Boss...



Wintery ambition... What Hugo Boss wants British men to wear next winter

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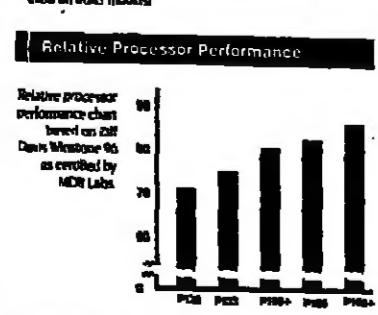


Table with 3 columns: Model (P120, P150+, P166+), Processor, RAM, Hard Disk, CD-ROM Drive, Screen, Modem, Price including VAT, Price excluding VAT.

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Italy's IRI faces debt nightmare

John Glover in Milan

FOUNDED under fascism and charged with the rescue of Italy's depression-struck industrial and banking systems, Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI) is now being nicknamed Istituto del Ruder Industriali, or the Institute of Industrial Ruins.

that IRI would have three years to reduce its debt. The Commission has now granted a six-month extension. IRI's status as a Treasury-owned company gives it special access to special rates, distorting competition.

Table with 4 columns: Country, Rate, Country, Rate. Includes Australia, France, Germany, etc.

Eurocats

Comic strip titled 'Eurocats' with panels showing 'THE ACROPOLIS...', 'THE TEMPLE OF ZEUS...', 'ATHENS STOCK EXCHANGE', and 'AND TALKING OF RUNS...'.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: 'من اجل'.

Opposition hardens stand against pay bonanza • Pensioners and unions join in condemnation

# 'Fat cats' in Labour sights

**Chris Barrie and Celia Weston**

**L**ABOUR yesterday served notice on the privatised industries and the Government that it will not back down on plans to levy a windfall tax and that exposing fat cat payments to utility industry executives will be high on the party's electoral agenda.

The Opposition hardened its stand against the pay bonanza for some company executives after revelations in the Guardian that a small number of senior managers from the privatised electricity companies made close to £27

million from recent takeovers and mergers.

As pensioners and unions condemned the huge payments in share options and as compensation for loss of office, Labour said it would use this latest evidence of corporate complacency and to promote vigorously its plans for a windfall tax on the privatised utilities.

The Guardian's analysis was based on compensation payments made to executives following last year's takeovers of Eastern Group, Norweb, Seaboard, South Wales Electricity, and Manweb.

Jack Jones, president of the National Pensioners Convention, called for the executive

pay bonanza to be used instead to eliminate standing charges on electricity bills for the elderly.

Swift reaction came, too, from employee representatives. Mike Jeram, head of energy at the union, Unison, said: "Coming in a week when we learn that 1,000 jobs are to go in Norweb Retail, affecting mainly low-paid women, it shows the vast gulf between the haves and the have-nots in the electricity industry."

Alan Milburn, a senior member of Labour's Treasury team, last night warned that the public would be disgusted by the scale of the telephone number salaries and kick-backs. "While executive pay

abuse is handing out windfall gains to a few, Labour's windfall tax on the excess profits at the privatised utilities will fund a jobs programme for the many."

Brian Wilson, Labour's campaigns organiser, condemned ministers' protestations about the utilities' inability to afford the windfall tax. "They will sound even more hollow after these revelations." And he attacked the Prime Minister for wielding little influence over his greed-lust supporters. "On innumerable occasions he has put on his stern voice to say how much he disapproves of fat cat behaviour and they just carry on ignoring him."

But the Trade and Industry

Secretary, Ian Lang, declined to condemn the payouts. Boardroom "adjustments" were a matter for the directors concerned, he said. The payouts were "entirely separate" to decisions made by his department on whether to allow further takeovers in the power industry.

Although some utilities are replacing controversial share option schemes, following recommendations on executive pay by the CBI-sponsored Greenbury committee, new long-term incentive plans (LTIAs) are likely to prove even more lucrative for utility company directors.

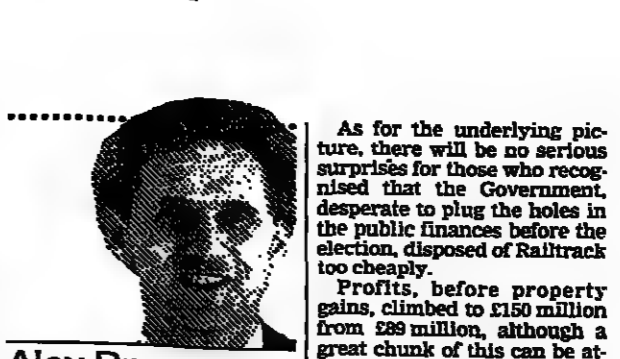
The CBI director general, Adair Turner, refused to comment on windfall gains made

by power company leaders. But the Association of British Insurers, representing institutional investors who own one in three of all shares, said share options were not an appropriate system of reward for newly privatised concerns such as the regional electricity companies.

Meanwhile United Utilities came to the defence of former Norweb chairman, Ken Harvey. The company denied his salary had been increased substantially, stating that his remuneration of £610,248 included a £407,200 payment for loss of office. This means Mr Harvey's earnings were about £24.7 million, including pension payments and potential profits from share options.

## Notebook

### Inflation could still spoil it all



Alex Brummer

**T**HE pound is up 9.5 per cent since August, and this sharp climb is the most unexpected economic development this year. But what is welcomed by holiday-makers, and by those politicians who believe that the pound's strength is a symbol of economic vitality, is also a cause of some distress to industrialists.

Like so many of the post-war upswings in Britain's economic cycle, this one has been built on a strong export performance in the wake of a devaluation.

It can be argued that the authorities, by recently increasing the base rate to 6 per cent, have not helped themselves to deal with the problems arising from a strong pound. All that has done, the argument runs, is widen the differentials between interest rates here and among our main trading partners, pushing sterling even higher and raising expectations of further hikes to come.

But it is not the pound that the authorities are monitoring. The view on Threadneedle Street is that the only thing that matters is — as the Americans might say — domestic demand, stupid. It is in the housing market, in the market for consumer credit and on the high street that the danger signals have been seen. So the Bank of England — and for that matter the Halifax — have moved to calm down the excitement.

The authorities believe they have no choice, despite the firmness of sterling. The strength of the pound is due to temporary factors, like the dip in the oil price, whereas there is danger that inflation, running at twice European levels, could become entrenched. Of course, it would be better if sterling were lower. But cutting rates, or taking foreign currency into the reserves, would only pour fuel on domestic demand.

There remains open, however, the possibility of jawboning the pound down — perhaps with the help of the G7. That can work, as the dollar revival demonstrates.

### Lloyd's clean-up

**N**OW that Lloyd's of London has ditched its ghastly past, it is sensibly thinking about its future prospects. While the insurance market has been digging its way out from under the £8 billion losses of 1988-92 and the unfortunate consequences of unlimited liability among Names, its competitive position vis-à-vis insurance markets in Switzerland, Munich in Germany and North America has been damaged and the historic brand value of the Lloyd's name eroded.

Restoration is not necessarily an impossible task: great financial names can bounce back from the dead as the Earings part of ING (twice dead and twice revived) has demonstrated.

It is to this end that Lloyd's has set about a major revamp of the way the Corporation, which provides the market with its main central services. In the past, it has been notoriously inefficient. Anyone who tracked the Corporation's forecasting record, compared to that of shadow organisations like Chatset, would be acutely aware of the qualitative problems.

But it is not just forecasting, seen as that it, which has failed. The market has suffered from a lack of transparency in its costs, billing arrangements and profits, all of which has added to the air of mystique surrounding activity inside the smoked glass tower.

This will be particularly important in the US market, still Lloyd's most significant, which in future is to be run through a new New York office with direct links to regulators and markets. Inevitably such reorganisations — which these days focus on better IT — will result in a slimmer Lloyd's and one which, like the Stock Exchange, will go outside for some central services.

There is still one area which the new Lloyd's has to address fully: regulation. The failure of the market's old guard and the Government to take this by the horns and appoint an outside regulator is among the reasons that Peter Middleton, architect of much of the revamping, left so hurriedly. Yet this fundamental plank of reform cannot be put in place until there is a new Lloyd's Act.

### Railway riches

**E**XECUTIVES of Railtrack will be watching the renewed debate over pay in the privatised utilities with particular interest. In the six months since the company's partly-paid shares were issued at 190p, the shares have climbed 89 per cent to 352.5p, where it is already above the level at which their share options can be exercised.

Moreover, the better-than-expected profits performance — up 77 per cent in the first period as a public company — augurs extremely well for the profit-related share option scheme which, if targets are exceeded over a three-year period, could eventually generate a cascade of new options up to five times those put aside. It could prove a difficult problem for the remuneration committee, headed by would-be Tory grandee Archie Norman of Asda — unless he quietly moves off.

### Brussels puts BT bid for MCI on fast track

**N**ICHOLAS Barnister

**R**ICHARD Miles

**M**ORTGAGE lenders yesterday called on the Government to change the rules on home loan advertisements after the High Court outlawed the practice of promoting variable rate mortgages at their discounted rates.

Most building societies offer low-cost mortgages with heavily discounted interest rates for a short period. These then revert to the standard variable rate for the remainder of the 25-year term.

But two judges in the High Court ruled earlier this week that Scarborough Building Society had misled borrowers by advertising one of its mortgages as though the initial 1 per cent start-up rate applied to the full term.

Michael Coogan of the Council of Mortgage Lenders said this "widespread practice" was forced on building societies by earlier court judgments. "This is a good example of how legislation designed to help consumers can fail to meet that objective," he said.

## Rover to build £400m engine plant

**Chris Barrie Business Correspondent**

**R**OVER will invest £400 million in a new greenfield engine plant in a move that will secure up to 6,500 jobs in the West Midlands but spells cuts in the huge Longbridge plant in Birmingham.

The investment, agreed by Rover's parent company BMW, was finalised on Thursday night, after five months of negotiation with the Government, when Trade and Industry Secretary Ian Lang stepped into the talks by offering "a little more money" to BMW chairman Bernd Pischetsrieder.

The Government is contributing £22.5 million in regional selective assistance and as much again in indirect help towards training costs and infrastructure development. The aid has yet to be vetted by the European Commission.

The investment, which will affect key West Midlands constituencies, was welcomed by the Prime Minister, who said investors were attracted by the UK's competitiveness.

Attacking the European working-time directive, which lays down a 48-hour maximum working week, Mr Major warned: "Other measures which would follow it would damage that competitiveness and reduce the chance of such investments in future."

The new plant will be operational by the beginning of next century. It will supply both Rover and BMW, making 600,000 1.6- and two-



Hands on... Ian Lang, left, and Walter Haselikus make an under-the-bonnet inspection yesterday

litre engines a year with a 1,500 work force. Some 5,000 jobs will be secured in supplier companies.

But the investment means that Longbridge, making 840,000 engines a year with 6,000 people, will see its output decline.

Rover chief executive Walter Haselikus said the company did not intend to halt engine output from Longbridge altogether, but acknowledged that there

was no commitment yet to replace its existing K-series engine range with a new unit. Longbridge engine workers will be offered transfers to the new site, at Hams Hall, and to car assembly plants.

The company has already announced it will invest in new car assembly operations at Longbridge.

Tony Woodley, national secretary of the Transport and General Workers

Union, welcomed the investment but called on BMW to name the cars to be built at Longbridge.

Dr Haselikus said labour costs had been a reason for locating the new plant in the UK rather than the main alternative, at Steyr in Austria. The group could have received more aid elsewhere, but opted for "the best long-term strategic solution".

The announcement will

go some way towards offsetting BMW's recent decision to invest in a new engine plant with US company Chrysler. Engines from this factory will be imported for the replacement for the Mini, which is under development.

It is hardly surprising that BMW chose the UK for its new engine factory rather than locating it in its home territory, writes Julia Glaz.

Germany's industry body, the VDA, recently published a study showing that, in comparison with other industrialised countries, Germany is "world champion in all the wrong disciplines", whereas the UK is often leading the pack.

For example, labour costs in Britain average £10 an hour, compared with £24 in Germany, and health and pensions benefits cost less than a third in the UK.

## City fraud claim 'left life in ruins'

**Dan Atkinson**

**O**NE OF three people accused of the £4 million telex fraud at Lazard Brothers has told her life was destroyed by the police inquiry into the swindle. "I lost everything... I lost my good name," Dorothy Willis said.

Cleared of involvement in the crime, Mrs Willis, aged 59, was made redundant by Lazard's, with her two colleagues, and suffered a nervous breakdown. Lazard's provided psychiatric counselling but none of the City since.

During three grueling investigations, police asked Mrs Willis who she was sleeping with. Mrs Willis had been widowed a year earlier. She was further threatened with being "locked up" should she divulge information about the fraud to others.

Mrs Willis, of Ilford, Essex, had worked for Lazard's for 14 years. She became "a screaming wreck of her former self", according to a friend.

Another telex operator, Jacqueline Tomlinson, was charged with taking part in the crime, but the case collapsed last week when the Crown case was torpedoed by evidence of slack security at

## CBI presses Labour to dilute its training plan

**Richard Thomas Economics Correspondent**

**B**USINESS leaders are mounting a behind-the-scenes campaign aimed at forcing Labour to dilute its commitment to link collective bargaining with training provision in the workplace.

Although company directors have welcomed the Opposition's abandonment of a compulsory training levy, CBI officials are concerned that trade union legislation will be used as a "back door" influence on firms.

One CBI policy-maker said: "We are in talks with Labour about this. They have gone a long way to meet our concerns, but this is something which still worries business."

He said that the CBI would exert only discreet pressure on the front bench, because public statements could be seen as undermining the employers' group's politically neutral stance.

But Labour front-benchers said employers must be encouraged to provide training provision, pointing to the CBI's regional trends survey — published yesterday — which showed that companies in the industrial heartlands were suffering a skills shortage.

Stephen Byers, Labour employment spokesman, said: "The inclusion of training in the four compulsory elements of collective agreements — along with pay, holidays and working hours — is a recognition of the importance training holds for New Labour."

## Leaves-on-line action as Railtrack shares surge

**Keith Harper Transport Editor**

**S**HARES in Railtrack surged more than 10 per cent yesterday after it surprised the stock market with better than expected profits and announced measures aimed at tackling leaves-on-line delays.

The announcement that Railtrack made £172 million pre-tax profits in its first six months as a private company sent shares up 98.5p to 352.5p. The flotation price was 190p. The track operator is to pay an interim dividend of 7.5p a share next February.

A good initial performance was always expected because the Government wrote off the industry's £1.2 billion debt before privatisation and sold Railtrack for £1.9 billion, a third of its value.

The company promised to make sure disruption caused by bad weather was minimised. Over the winter, tests to remove leaves from the line more effectively are to take place in East Anglia and the South-west, using a high-speed water spray developed on European railways.

John Edmunds, Railtrack's chief executive, said it wanted to improve winter performance when services were less reliable and punctuality dipped. He admitted that bad weather could have "quite serious" consequences, and Railtrack had to prepare contingency plans.

In an upbeat approach to the accounts, Mr Edmunds claimed a 30 per cent performance improvement in passenger services compared to the same period last year, a figure already being questioned by one rail watchdog.

Asked what would happen if Labour won the election, Mr Edmunds said that Railtrack's policy was the same as Labour's: "We want to carry more passengers and freight. We don't want to re-visit the stale arguments about privatisation."

## BAT 'knew of exchange abuses'

**Ken King**

**B**AT Industries, the tobacco and financial services combine, admitted yesterday that it had been aware of possible foreign exchange violations by ITC, its Indian subsidiary, more than a year ago.

BAT, which owns a 31 per cent stake in ITC, said it had warned ITC's disgraced former chairman, Krishan Lal Chugh, and ordered an independent audit of the group's affairs. ITC, India's biggest tobacco firm, is at the centre of allegations it illegally transferred money abroad and booked fake profits.

India's enforcement directorate, an arm of the finance ministry, has raided the homes of present and former ITC executives in connection with the allegations. The directorate's deputy director, KK Kabiripathi, said yesterday that BAT was aware of the alleged violations.

But BAT — which is expected to take a controlling stake in ITC once the row has died down — said last night that it was not involved in any way. Michael Prideaux, BAT's spokesman, said: "We had suspicions about them, and had brought them to the board's attention, but Mr Chugh's unwillingness brought them into conflict with us. But the idea that we withheld information is utterly untrue."

ITC is unlikely to replace any of its senior officials until after its interim results are published later this month.

If ITC is found guilty of the alleged offences, it could be fined up to 17.5 billion rupees (£286 million), making it vulnerable to a full takeover by BAT. Mr Prideaux said last night that BAT had already held discussions with ITC's institutional shareholders.

A number of ITC's Indian employees have made a public appeal to BAT, imploring it to take the company over as soon as possible. BAT shares closed 6p higher at 426.5p.

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Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## Voters face a cocktail of austerity and job losses

### Brazil is grappling with the Real problems, reports MARK MILNER in Sao Paulo

**F**EW would argue with the assessment asserted by Roberto Civita, boss of Brazil's leading media group, about the challenges facing his country: "Our problems are simple — big but simple."

That comes with the country. Brazil is huge — the same size as the US, without Alaska.

More than 3,300 miles separate Boa Vista in the north from Forte Alegre in the south; the western city of Rio Branco is a similar distance from Recife in the east. The state of Sao Paulo has a bigger economy than that of Argentina.

But simple? Hardly. Even the most cursory glance shows the country has what one economist, with considerable understatement, describes as "lousy income distribution" among its 159 million inhabitants.

In Sao Paulo's barely com-

prehensible urban sprawl, where tower blocks jumble in ranges for as far as the eye can see and the roads are gridlocked from dawn to dusk, shanty towns cover in the shadow of gleaming modern skyscrapers.

The homeless huddle in doorways. The rich hide behind iron bars and security guards in the city's posh Morumbi district.

Ninety minutes' flying time away from Sao Paulo's chaotic dynamism lies the country's capital, Brasilia. Oscar Niemeyer's architectural masterpiece of Stalinist sterility. There the government of Fernando Henrique Cardoso is attempting to tackle Brazil's ills by reforming an economy crippled by decades of inflation and protectionism.

Since the introduction of the Real plan — which pegged the new currency against the dollar — in 1994, inflation has tumbled. Once 50 per cent a



No Manhattan this... Sao Paulo's mixture of skyscrapers and shanty towns symbolises the national economic malaise

month, it has now (just) fallen to an annual rate which is (just) in single figures.

That, according to finance minister Pedro Malan, has already brought benefits to many of the poorer members of Brazilian society because it has meant a big boost to their purchasing power. Industrialists report that it has also stimulated demand for consumer goods among those higher up the income scale.

Confidence in the government's economic management has brought an increase in foreign investment. Foreign exchange reserves have climbed to almost \$60 billion (\$37.5 billion).

The Real plan managed to weather the Tequila surprise — the capital flight from Mexico which then spread south — although that was achieved at the cost of even higher interest rates and an, albeit temporary, \$5 billion hit on the foreign reserves.

Despite such successes, the government has its critics. For them growth — 3 per cent this year and around 4.5 per cent next — is too low. "We could do better, say 6 per cent. For the next couple of years the country can manage — but after that we need a faster growth rate," reckons Afonso Pastore, a former governor of Brazil's central bank.

Not is the growth uniform. According to Mr Pastore,

spending on consumer goods is growing strongly but the capital goods sector has recorded a fall.

The trade balance, too, is a problem. The current account is in the red to the tune of about \$2 billion a month. The deficit is being made up by the flow of foreign funds. Some of it is hot money, attracted by Brazil's high interest rates. Hence, therefore, are pinned on Brazil's ability

to attract more foreign investment in bricks and mortar, plant and machinery. That could hit \$10 billion next year, if the privatisation programme goes according to plan.

The big, however, may lie in the government's ability to sort out the public finances. Public sector debt is around 36 per cent of gross domestic product. That is low by international standards but Dr Malan says: "I don't derive much satisfaction from that."

Small wonder, when interest rates are 24 per cent and the average maturity of the debt is only seven months.

Reducing the burden will not be easy.

The government is facing conflicting pressures. Inflationists are pressing for a reduction in indirect employment costs, which can amount to two-thirds of the direct wage bill. "That's why everyone is asking for fiscal reform," says Rene Camargo, general manager of Walita, the Brazilian subsidiary of the Philips electronics group.

On the other hand, the federal government in Brasilia has to persuade the state and municipal authorities to trim their spending. According to Dr Malan, some are spending 100 per cent of their revenue on wages alone.

Cutting spending means cutting jobs — at a time when

trade liberalisation is leading the private sector to shed workers in order to be competitive, and about 2 per cent more Brazilians a year are looking for work.

Mr Cardoso has political problems. He is currently seeking constitutional reform which would allow him to stand for a second presidential term. The tide, however, may be turning against him.

This weekend, the voters of

Mr Cardoso stand against him.

Building support elsewhere could distract from efforts at fiscal reform — not least because of the concessions Mr Cardoso may be forced to make in order to build support for the constitutional changes he wants.

Still, despite a Thatcherite air about his administration's economic policy, Mr Cardoso has a reputation for preferring conciliation to confrontation and may get his way yet.

Foreign investors are likely to hope so. As the architect of the Real plan, Mr Cardoso has a well-established commitment to stabilisation. The combination of slow growth and low inflation may frustrate domestic critics but it will help keep investment flowing in from abroad.

If Mr Cardoso fails to get his way on constitutional change, Brazil will, at best, face a period of protracted uncertainty.

At worst, according to one observer, it could open the door, dangerously, to a populist president.

Could he mean Mr Maluf?

## Scholarly minister hedges bets on inflation gamble

**P**EDRO MALAN does not look like a gambler. Pipe-smoking and bespectacled, he projects the image of the career civil servant he has been for much of his working life.

Dr Malan, however, is now Brazil's minister of finance; a key player in president Fernando Henrique Cardoso's attempt to wean the country off its decades-long addiction to inflation and on to the path of sustainable economic growth.

And it is a gambling metaphor on which Dr Malan — he has a PhD in economics from Berkeley, California — draws when he talks of the government's progress in tackling the economic challenges it faces.

Two-and-a-half years ago when the Cardoso administration launched its Real programme — the new currency which forms a central plank of the programme — inflation was running at 30 per cent a month. Wage indexation, linked to historic levels of inflation, ensured a continuation of the savage price spiral. Today wholesale price inflation is running at just under 10 per cent a year and is forecast to fall to 5 per cent in 1997.

But if Dr Malan believes the government has won its first bet by bringing down inflation to single figures for the first time in four decades, he is more cautious about the second part of the strategy.

"We are still playing the cards, we are still at the table. It will be some years before we will be able to express, with a high degree of confidence, that we have been able to create the conditions for sustainable

growth, higher employment, a manageable balance of payments situation and brought the public sector debt down to a manageable level." All this without going soft on inflation.

Progress is being made. Growth this year is expected to be 3 per cent — down on 1995 — but is forecast to climb to 4.5 per cent next year. That might not look too spectacular for a developing economy, but Dr Malan points out that it will mean the Brazilian economy will have grown by 30 per cent in real terms in five years.

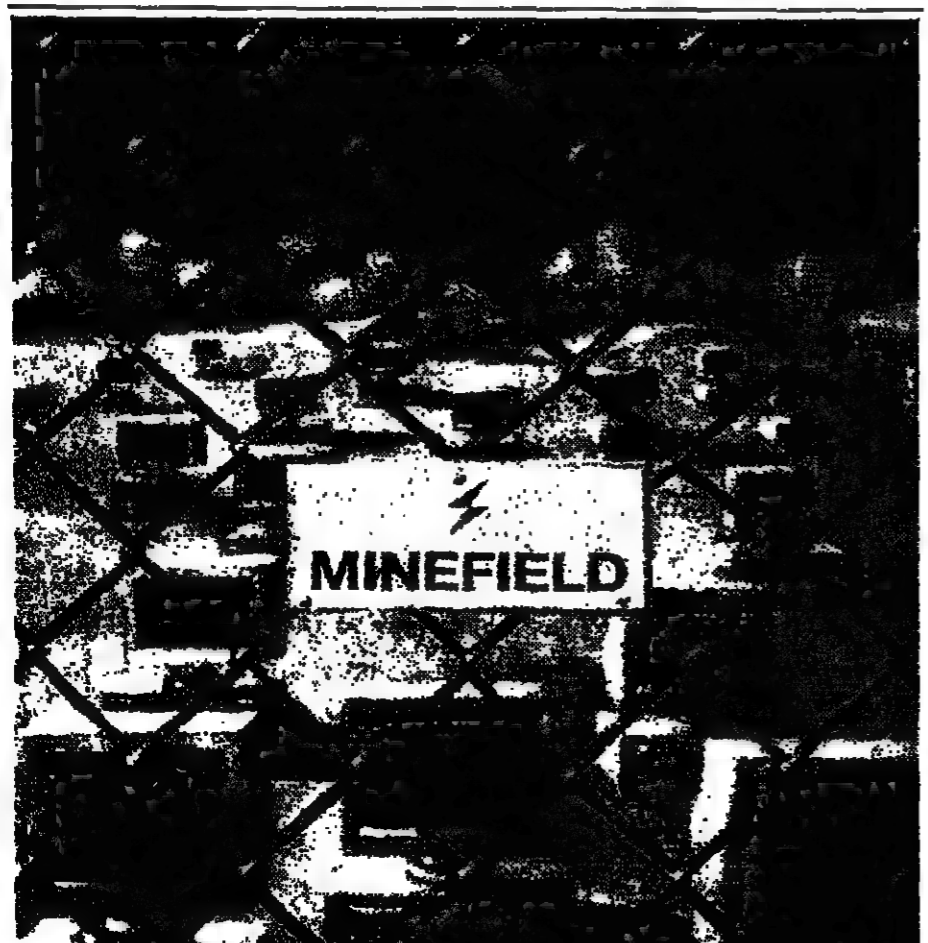
AS TO the public finances, debts have been struck with a number of Brazil's power states to help trim their spending. A wage freeze has been imposed on civil servants. Privatisation is helping, though critics suggest the administration could move faster.

Dr Malan is adamant that there is no lack of political will. Public money, he says, should be spent on health care and education "not on running steel and petrochemical plants".

Certainly cuts in the debt burden are needed. Brazil's public sector debt may not look high at 35 per cent of gross domestic product — many European countries are struggling to meet the Maastricht criterion of 60 per cent — but interest rates are high and maturities short.

"We are not underestimating the magnitude of the challenge. But we are changing the agenda and it will be very hard to depart from the broad outlines of that agenda — not because it is ours, but because it is what the majority of Brazilians want."

Public sector debt may be relatively low but interest rates run at 24 per cent and the average maturity of loans is seven months



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### Quick Crossword No. 8285

**Across**

- 1 A parachutist pulls it (7)
- 8 Drain totally (7)
- 9 Common British bird (4,3)
- 10 Set aside or book (7)
- 11 Place for books (5)
- 13 Nonsense (flower bird) (9)
- 16 Wages in container (3,5)
- 18 Dragonfly larva (5)
- 21 One of the Five Towns (7)
- 22 Shrub (with bark?) (7)
- 23 Copying device (7)
- 24 Inmoderate (7)

**Down**

- 1 Fictorial pun (5)
- 2 Affectedly modest person (5)
- 3 Rusty (3,2,5)
- 4 Superfluous (2,4)
- 5 TV programme (with stars) (3,3,2,5)
- 6 Paper size (5)
- 7 Stripe of another colour (5)
- 12 Dance with hoop (4)
- 14 Potato or silicon? (4)
- 15 Refinement (5)
- 16 Over there (5)
- 17 Set alight (5)
- 19 American deer (5)
- 20 Living barrier (5)

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The Guardian

# the week



## I say yes, you say no

When Leah Betts died after taking Ecstasy there was a huge panic. Across Britain, terrified parents still think they can stop their children dancing to Ecstasy's tune. They will fail, argues, **Tom Hodgkinson**, and teenagers could tell them why

**J**UST over a year ago Leah Betts took her first Ecstasy pill. She went into a coma and died. Headline writers had a field day. Sentimental, heart-string tugging headlines, designed to prey on the worries of ignorant, frightened parents, exploded into living rooms. "It could be your child", warned the Daily Mail. "Poisoned: Spiked Ecstasy tablet puts birthday girl, 18, into coma," announced the Daily Mirror. "Leah's Last Words: She named Ecstasy pill pusher then pleaded 'Help me mum, help me'" reported Today. All the papers used a picture of a helpless, innocent-looking Leah in a hospital bed, tubes sticking out of her nose, an image that would move even the most hard-hearted dance fan.

Leah's father Paul Betts, a retired policeman, and her step-mother, Jan, started a campaign against the drug, which, statistically, has less chance of killing you than a peanut. A poster campaign was launched, featuring a photo of Leah alongside a nastily sarcastic

"sorted" and the words: "Just one Ecstasy tablet took Leah Betts."

The campaign may have comforted Leah's family and other worried parents who felt that while the problem might not have been "sorted", it was being tackled. But what did the pill poppers make of it all? In Brighton, which has a thriving dance scene, the anti-Ecstasy posters were being defaced by local apologists for dance culture as quickly as they appeared on walls. The anarchist band Chumbawamba responded with a poster that read "Distorted", claiming that you are far more likely to die from eating a bay leaf than taking Ecstasy.

Even the case of Leah Betts turned out to be less simple than the newspapers had told us. Leah didn't quite fit the facts, as presented by the tabloids, which wanted a simple black and white story of innocent girl as victim of evil drug pusher. According to Nicholas Saunders, the author of two meticulously researched books on Ecstasy, it was not Leah's first pill. She had had at least four before she died.

At the time Paul Betts said that whoever it was who had given Leah her B was practically a murderer, and he vowed to find the "killer". Then it turned out that the person who gave her the drug was already known to her, says Saunders, "and there was no question of charges." It also emerged that it was not the Ecstasy that killed Leah. She in fact died from liver failure after drinking too much water as she knew that Ecstasy has a dehydrating effect.

Why did the Leah Betts affair receive so much publicity? Other Ecstasy-related deaths (most estimates put the total at around 60 over the last 10 years) merit a few paragraphs. It is probably because it was the only Ecstasy-related death where a picture was released of someone who was actually in the process of dying, and was thus an effective weapon in the war between those who just say "no" against those who just say "yes".

The Betts parents undertook a nation-wide tour, going into schools and putting on shows trying to warn sophists - page 14

**NATIONAL SAVINGS**  
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THIS CHRISTMAS I WANT TO BUY something special for my nephew that'll last longer than Boxing Day. Any ideas?

Clare Stenson

**SANDRA DILWORTH**  
National Savings

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To help ensure the Bonds are received before Christmas, please post your application no later than 2 December using the coupon in **Jobs and Money**. Or for a full guide to our Children's Bonus Bonds, freecall 0500 500 000, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**NATIONAL SAVINGS**  
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BB1GD6

the week that was

Them on them

The global view

Now that the horrific magnitude of Tuesday evening's mid-air collision has finally sunk in, the authorities have fallen back on games which they are familiar with: obfuscation and passing the buck.

Officials at the Yapan Waropon regency Office of the Ministry of Social Services are investigating

reports that an isolated tribe of people with tails live in the regency's hinterland. "We have received information about them from people living near the tribe," said a spokesman for the ministry.

Speech is like dynamite. It is dangerous only if placed in a small space and put under strong external pressure. The speech of an immature youth attracts only a few people but jail can make a hero of him.

Us on us

The British view

Oasis's Liam Gallagher is in trouble again, this time for suspected possession of cocaine. While the Jewish behaviour of the millionaire from a council estate in Burnage is unacceptable, we believe it is to be pitied.

If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face - for ever. This was from George Orwell's 1984 but could equally apply to Helmut Kohl's 1997.

beginnings of a single currency. And once he's done that, all the rest of the trappings that are needed to create a single European super-state will rapidly fall into place.

Of course we all want Cascoigne to become a more mature, responsible person. But if he is to play for England, it will do no one any good if he is so frightened to put a foot out of place that he plays in a strait-jacket.



THEME OF THE WEEK THE PARANORMAL

If the eternal debate over the fundamentals of existence were a football match, the score at the end of this week would be something like: Paranormal 4, Rationality 2.

Murphy, who went on to spend eight years and \$1 million searching the wrong area. The report appeared under the headline 'Dri Geller vindicated as historic sub is found', and the same edition carried the extraordinary story of the Dean of Lincoln demanding that the city's cathedral be explored.

At least, as he prepared for his steadily anti-paranormal Dimbleby lecture, which struck a blow for rationalism in a week when there seemingly be occult stuff round every corner.

programme having to agree with a churchman, the Bishop of Rochester, Michael Nazir-Ali, who had been attacking astrology in favour of his own brand of superstition - religion.

HAVE YOU BEEN PAYING ATTENTION?

- 1. "There is absolutely no chance he can be gay. It is categorically not true." Who was the heterosexual? (a) Michael Jackson (b) George Michael (c) Liam Gallagher (d) Prince Andrew

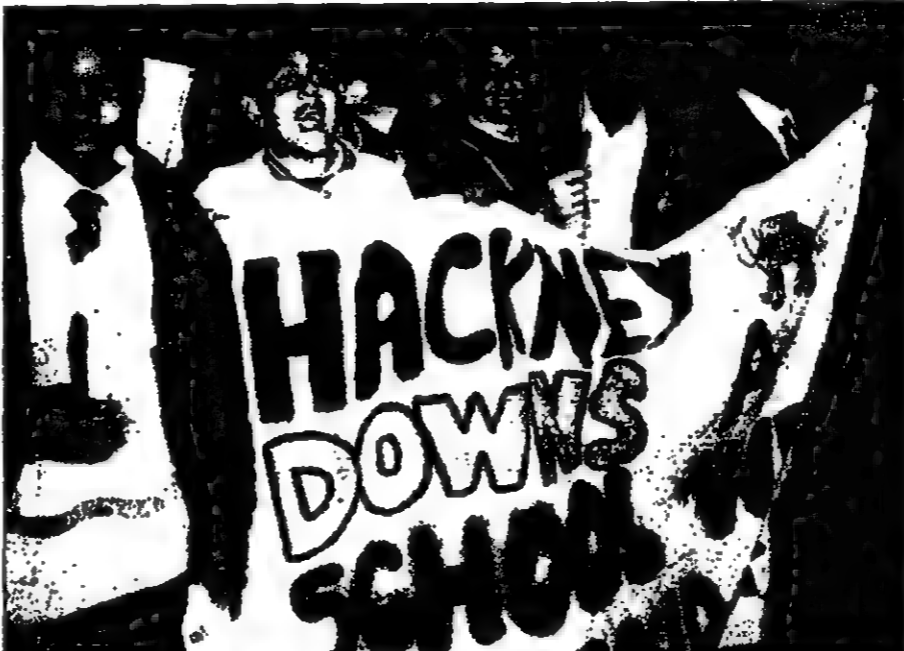
Hard lessons of schools caught in the spotlight

This week last year November 15 1995

ONE year after the North East London Education Association announced its decision to close the troubled Hackney Downs school, others have taken over its mantle of worst school in the country.

The name Hackney Downs became synonymous with academic failure and rampant indiscipline and in July 1995, Gillian Sheppard removed the school from the control of the local authority.

several unfortunate factors occur at the same time, the school needs help. "At a time like this, a school cannot function properly without the support of its local authority. But instead of getting support, schools, teachers and the pupils are made into scapegoats. It is without dispute that teachers at Hackney Downs were made scapegoats and it is very likely that that is what happened to the head at The Ridings.



was in their best interest. We made teachers and parents aware that if a school descends below a certain level the government will intervene. Hackney Downs was short-changing pupils and although no one ever wants to close a school, it is

better than letting it continue delivering a poor standard of education. Professor Barber warns against the notoriety given to individual pupils in recent cases: "What kind of message does it send to children if you can get lots of press

coverage by being an annoying child. Have the interests of the pupils been entirely forgotten?" Diane Abbott, Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington argues that when a school collapses so publicly, the real problem of young

School's out... pupils protest, but do their views ever matter? PHOTO: ENHAMILTON WEST

- 2. "He's been so supportive during all this, really sweet to me." Who was the caring partner? (a) Paul Gascoigne (b) Liam Gallagher (c) Peter Hook (d) Matt Bowers

I say yes, you say no

Page 13 cited 15-year-olds of the dangers of the drug. They appeared on TV talk shows, basically taking the line: "I want people to be given the information to make an informed choice, and the choice should be 'no'."



Leah Betts, her father, Paul, and stepmother, Jan... a tragic death, followed by a campaign that is doomed to fail?

ject information on the drug forced its way to the public arena. "And it did highlight the fact that there is a small chance of getting a bad reaction from Ecstasy. Some parents called drugs agencies, and were assured that their child probably did not have a problem," says Wright.

However, those who were already into E and the culture that surrounds it found the campaign irritating. "It was a horrendous thing that happened to Leah Betts's parents," says Wright. "But does that give them a right to prescribe a formula for the whole country?"

SO can governments and parents tell their children and its citizens how to behave? Will campaigns and laws ever have an effect? A glance at history will reveal that attempts to limit or control our behaviour are doomed to failure, often encouraging the very behaviour that it was intended to repress.

Ecstasy culture has also spawned a criminal class, which is making money from the E generation. But there is surprisingly little hostility to dealers on the scene although most people would prefer a situation where they were not criminalised for taking an informed decision on their choice of intoxicant.

people in the sixties to look around them in new ways, and therefore create appropriate music and art for the times, so it is with Ecstasy. Its use has stimulated a creative, entrepreneurial generation who are doing things despite an unhelpful welfare state system and a plethora of restrictive, prohibitive laws which seek to limit their freedoms.

- Quiz answers 1. Prince Andrew, rumours about whose sexuality were scooped by Sarah Ferguson on a US chat show. 2. (b) Sarah Ferguson 3. (a) BBC chairman Christopher Bland, who announced a new code of practice aimed at curbing sleaze on TV. 4. The male ladybird, which according to Dr Michael Majors of Cambridge University, is a "sex-crazed carnival". 5. ITV, which ditched the show in mid-series because of sinking ratings. 6. Magnus Magnusson, quiz master on Mastermind, which has been used by the BBC after 25 years. 7. Prince Charles. 8. Liam Gallagher, who appeared at Marylebone police station on suspicion of possessing cocaine but failed to show up at Ally Pally to collect his MTV award. 9. Liam Gallagher, whose New Man qualities were praised by Patsy Kensit. 10. Frank Sinatra. 11. (d) The RAG, a spokesman for whom said, "It sounds like the horrific scenes in the film could well have the effect of making people drive safer". 12. Faine Spencer, whose three-year marriage to Count Jean-Francois de Chamberlain ended in divorce. 13. Linda's End, "My mother lives in Helston and they felt it was well. A bit of plaster came off the wall," reported one distressed resident. 14. The Taboo Samba-owning Mr Parker couldn't afford a personalised number plate, so changed his name to match the car instead. 15. The question was, What is the Hubble Constant? The Constant, which measures the ratio between the speed at which galaxies recede and their distance from us, is the key question in cosmology.

- Richter Scale 0-4 Bland 5-9 Lifeguard 10-14 Lok King 15 Ladybird

سكيا من الالاجل

Sir Nicholas Scott, MP for Chelsea, is on trial by his local association for the second time in a year

# A career in the balance

## THE JOANNA COLES INTERVIEW



**S**IR NICHOLAS SCOTT is a man who has disappointed life as much as life has disappointed him. You can see it in his pouchy face; his eyelids droop as if they can barely be bothered to stay open. At 63, his voice is now a time-stained drawl, as if his lips can barely summon up the energy to form themselves into words. Even his handshake is bored. "Hello there," he murmurs, padding languidly across the foyer of Norman Shaw North, the House of Commons overflow, in which he has his office.

Probably not for much longer. In two weeks' time, his 30-year career at Westminster will be on trial again. This time last year, Chelsea Conservatives were discussing the incident in which his Volvo hit another Volvo, trapping a three-year-old French child in his pram. Scott was said to have fled the scene.

According to the tabloids, it was not an edifying tale, but after hearing his side of it, the Chelsea Conservative Association agreed to give him a second chance. This time round, after an initial vote of no confidence, they will be discussing his collision with a Bournemouth pavement at the Tory Party Conference. "Shamed Drunk in the Street," yelled the Daily Mirror front page.

Encoined in his cosy office on the third floor, I ask Scott what happens to him when he drinks. "I don't get drunk!" he protests crossly, sounding like a boastful teenager. "I don't get drunk! For the last couple of years, my intake of alcohol has been absolutely minimal! I think I've reached the point where I'll just stop it altogether, just as well, be absolutely teetotal." And he makes a jubilant little harrumphing noise.

It was during his six-year ministerial stint in Northern Ireland that he got into the alcohol habit. "Business was often conducted over a glass of whisky, or two. And really, I suppose that habit persisted when we came back. But my wife and I discussed it and really for the last couple of years, I've drunk hardly at all.

In which case, he must consider himself the luckiest man in Britain. "The incident last year [with the pram] well, I was one glass over the limit! One glass over the limit! And this year?" "At Bournemouth, at the Irish Embassy party I had two glasses of wine, which is well under any limit! But at that point I was taking these painkillers as a result of a fall and they can cause vertigo and dizziness!"

They also caused him to sleep straight through his own constituency drinks party — even the deputy chairman hammering on his hotel door failed to rouse him. Didn't he realise strong painkillers and alcohol don't mix? "I came out of the party having had... well, they offered me whisky and I turned that down! I don't drink spirits at all but I thought a couple of glasses of white wine wouldn't go amiss. I came out into the open, I fell and had a dizzy spell."

"I try again. Didn't he realise alcohol and painkillers don't mix?" "It never occurred to me! People say 'Oh, everyone knows that!' But I've never been ill!"

At this point, the door nudges open and in trots Patricia Sill-Johnson, Scott's charming secretary, who has been with him since the seventies. Pretty in a navy suit, she was his passenger on the night of the car accident. "Cup of coffee?" she asks. I say I'd prefer tea. "I think we've run out," interrupts Sir Nicholas, "because I normally drink tea and I haven't got one!"

"I could always scrounge one," laughs Patricia in her gentle but distinctly Tory voice, and I try to imagine her at the scene of the accident, allegedly shrieking "Do you know who I am? French scum, French scum!"

"Do you want a coffee?" she asks lovingly. "Yes," says Sir Nicholas nicely. "Black please. Now, where were we?"



Scott... 'I fell and had a dizzy spell.' Didn't he realise alcohol and painkillers don't mix? 'It never occurred to me!'

PHOTOGRAPH: EAMONN MCGABE

We were on the subject of his doctor, to whose house Scott retreated after the Volvo. "As it happens, he lives about 75 yards away from the incident and I told people at the scene: 'I'm going down the road, if anyone wants to see me or talk to me, you know the address — send them down to me!'"

Send them down to me. This phrase is delivered in such an imperious, arrogant, patrician tone, I want to lean across the desk and throttle him. Send them down to you, but you'd just backed another car into a child. "All this business about the child, the child wasn't injured! They took him to accident and emergency at Chelsea and Westminster; they found no problems whatsoever. It turned out I was one glass over the limit! As soon as someone said there's a child been hurt, I went down to speak to the parents. The child was crying. As I got there, I was told by someone who happened to be walking past and turned out to be a paediatrician: 'I've already inspected the child, and there's nothing wrong with him!'"

"Excuse me," says Patricia, coming in and brandishing a triumphant cup. "Your tea-bag, Earl Grey?" "Did I get any coffee?" grumbles Scott. "If I'd known you were going to find an Earl

**'I don't get drunk! For the last couple of years, my intake of alcohol has been absolutely minimal!'**

Grey tea-bag. I would have tea myself."

Which way does he think his association will vote? "I have no idea," he shrugs, and for a brief moment he looks so weary I wonder if he's past caring. "I've looked after the constituency very well. People think of Chelsea as Lowndes Square, well there's World's End with social issues and problems, Earl's Court which changes very fast."

What's the percentage of unemployed people? "Oh I'd have to look it up to give you the... the... the exact figure," he says.

"It's about 12 per cent, I think," chirrups Patricia helpfully.

"About 12, is it?" he says, sounding rather surprised. "London is booming at the moment. If you look at Walton Street and Beauchamp Place, well two years ago, there were quite a lot of To Let signs up in both — not a bad barometer for the constituency. Well, I was talking to someone on the phone the other day and they said: 'It's come right down, you know. People really are taking up tenancies in those two areas!'"

I feel like saying: "Fancy that? But instead I ask what he'll do if he is deselected? 'I don't know what I shall do,' he says irritated. Well how would he earn a living? 'I've got lots of things to do, I'm involved in various charitable

foundations. I'm a consultant to the Bank of Ireland. Does he understand why some people think he should go? "Yes. But move away from the incident, which I think most rational people would not think was a great disaster. The fact is that the uniting of Kensington and Chelsea, because of boundary changes, has left a degree of resentment in Kensington. They feel they're the junior partner, taken over by a richer and stronger Conservative association."

How petty, I say. "You may think that," he replies wryly. "Let's say I couldn't possibly comment." But it must be infuriating to feel that after so many years he may be forced out because of inter-party squabbles.

"I think we have 18 parliamentary candidates within the constituency and there are a certain number of ambitious young men who might have some sort of interest in all this."

Unable to bear it any longer, Patricia, who has been hovering, suddenly bursts out excitedly: "I might add that in my experience all Conservative associations have always had things simmering under the surface! If you get a united local association, it's not real!" Flushed by this sudden outbreak, she smiles apologetically and backs out of the room.

In 1974, Time magazine fingered Scott as a potential world leader, so what went wrong? He never even made the Cabinet and two years ago, his own daughter, Victoria, a campaigner for disabled rights, derided him publicly, calling him underhand and a liar after he scuttled a private member's Disabled Persons Bill. "Politics is a rough old trade," he smiles grimly. "You don't go into politics thinking everyone's going to be nice to you all the time."

So why stay? He's had a safe seat and two junior ministerial posts, what can he left for him? "It sounds pompous but I want to show new people round, show them how it's done. I was very conscious of people holding my hand and telling me what not to do."

But new MPs may not want him to hold their hand. Frankly, they may laugh at him and think he's out of control? "I think your colleagues in the press had a ball," he says angrily. "Uh-oh, here we go."

"Most of the reports were grossly unfair to me. It's not pleasant to read that stuff, or for your family and friends. Our press is pretty awful."

I say that he doesn't seem to display much remorse or embarrassment about either incident. "I don't feel pleased," he shrugs. "I would much prefer it hadn't happened." No doubt, being forced to stand for re-election is inconvenient. But he doesn't seem particularly well, ashamed. "I'm not because of the hurt that happened to family but I'm not going to go into some deep purgatory. Perhaps because of the way your profession behaved, I would have had a totally different approach if it had been reported fairly." Did he complain about the way it was reported? "No." Why hasn't he complained to the Press Complaints Commission? "I should have done."

There is another thing which is puzzling about Sir Nicholas. His father was a policeman yet his own manner is impeccably grand. How come? "No, no, no My wife's family's quite grand, but not mine!"

Before I go, we descend into the foyer to take his photograph and Glenda Jackson saunters past humming. Scott tries to catch her eye but she keeps on going and I'm reminded that although Tory colleagues talk warmly of Scott, there is one word which keeps cropping up, Vanity.

Is he vain? He raises an eyebrow. "I can't think of anything less appropriate, not in the least! I'm a relaxed person who gets on with life. Not in the least! Doesn't even cross my mind. I try to stay fit, bit of golf and tennis. I have a batting average of 27 this season!"

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## JEREMY HARDY



**How to avoid tears before bedtime**

**W**AS going to say that no one likes to be told how to bring up children. But some people own books telling them how to do everything, from parenting to loft-conversion. From birth onwards, books give advice in minute detail as to every aspect of baby-care.

Parents who bottle-feed are denounced for rearing an idiot with no immune system. Men who take an active role in caring for babies are depicted as ugly and bearded, and really only there to play the guitar. Most men are expected to go back to work the second the cord is cut, having arranged for their own mother to come and stay in order to criticise her daughter-in-law as much as possible.

Even in modern society, the extended family is a major source of support and advice for new parents. "You need to super-glue your little bottom to the potty. My Colin was toilet-trained at six weeks."

Once the child is a toddler, the book advice is mostly a list of ill-

nesses. Then there's a bit about bed-wetting and a short concluding chapter entitled "The Rest of Your Child's Life".

Parents are then pretty much on their own as far as secular child-care books are concerned, although I predict a complete reversal of this in the coming year. The whole emphasis of the literature will be on psychology, and the baby-care will be thrown out with the correct temperature of the bath water. The thing troubling all parents will be whether we are rearing a nation of squeegee-merchants. Enter New Labour.

Jack Straw is a seasoned politician. Doubtless he is fuming that his call for a national debate about bedtime has been taken out of context, but he must know that if a politician says something that is even more stupid than the rest of what he says, it will be taken out of context. He's old enough to have learned that however many words a politician speaks or writes, the odd phrase will haunt him forever.

If someone produces a 1,000-page document on homelessness, detailing all sorts of innovative proposals to tackle the problem, the words "Let's have a cull!" will be the one everyone notices. Likewise, if a politician uses words which have an echo of corruption, malpractice or disloyalty, they will be taken out of context. If a Tory rebel says, "The Prime Minister's useless and I don't support him," the exact context of the phrase will recede from public view. If a minister writes down some ideas, one of which is, "We could rig the election", no one will care very much what the preceding or following sentences were.

So, Mr Straw has opened a healthy debate about whether he is barking like a dog or simply weird. He is clearly one of the party's loony right who are more concerned with pushing their own extreme ideas than winning elections. But does he not realise that he is making himself and his party a laughing stock? Does he now

know that he appears to exhibit all the signs of paranoia? Did he watch the Caine Mutiny and think that Captain Queeg was right?

**Men who take an active role in caring for babies are depicted as ugly and bearded, and really only there to play the guitar**

about the strawberries? Labour are absolutely right to point out that Tory policies foster crime. They are right to point out that people work too hard and don't spend enough time with their families. And they are right to point out that most of us have absolutely no idea how to bring up children.

Jack Straw's parents, for example sent him to boarding school. But considering the dearth of help and support, most parents do remarkably well. It would be very helpful if there were groups we could go to for help, advice and discussion, although given that the primary problem for most parents is that they are exhausted and broke, such groups would probably be populated only by the comfortable and bored.

The implication of Straw's pronouncements is not that help should be on offer to everyone, with no stigma attached, but that parents who may be struggling should be coaxed or bullied into remedial parenting tuition.

We already have health visitors and social workers who have the power to intervene in families, and get an enormous amount of stick as a result, sometimes deservedly, sometimes not. Undoubtedly, they are in a terrible position, faced with an overwhelming consensus that people must be

allowed to do what they like to their own children.

The traditional family is such a sacred, self-enclosed unit in so many minds, that the idea that children are not the property of their parents is still taking off. The idea that they are not the property of their parents' landowners or employers is only a century old. So, yes, the state has a role to play in helping children by helping their parents. But I question whether a panic-stricken belief that the world's gone mad and that it's the parent's fault is the best position from which to advance ideas about society's collective responsibility for children.

I somehow doubt that a man who is frightened of men with rags touching his windscreen is the right man to advance any ideas. But let us take a progressive view of Jack Straw and say that there's no such thing as a bad Shadow Home Secretary — he's just over-tired and cranky, and he's showing off.



Revenge, Fergie and those long Icelandic nights

SUNDAY: The writer Derek Tangye died last month, and a friend who knew him described a new phenomenon: famous people getting posthumous revenge on their would-be biographers... especially those who want a spot of rumpy-pumpy to help sales.

MONDAY: Luckily we still have Fergie's autobiography. Like a lot of obsessives, she is good at beating her breast for her sins, and equally good at excusing them.

TUESDAY: The Europeans have found a way round our Social Chapter Opt-Out, and the Government is furious. Some of us are old enough to remember a time when the rightwing press described British workers as idle good-for-nothings compared to the Stakhanovites of the continent.

I had heard in Japan that the Imperial Household rules the Emperor, but hadn't realised something similar happens here

standard of living is now why behind the rest of Europe. WEDNESDAY: At a book reading, I sat next to Jack Hedley, in his day one of the most popular actors on TV.

THURSDAY: It's sad that Marxism is ending, though I don't suppose Magnus Magnusson is too big to know how to get the account absolutely perfect. FRIDAY: The Lib Dems are involved in a clash for Kirkcaldy constituency. Did anyone expect that as they swept local authorities all over the country, that in some magical way, the same kind of two-party sleaze wouldn't follow?

SMALLWEED

AM often asked: why do you keep complaining about the employment of words like 'babe' and 'sugar'? Why shouldn't people speak and write as they choose? You have an untidy vocabulary, you say. So what? You're a schoolteacher in the first of pedantic biographies I've listed that doesn't mention the name of the author's 'English Usage'.

Love of both kinds

HEAD TO HEAD

As gay Christians flock to Southwark Cathedral for a service today, Bishop Derek Rawcliffe, sacked for blessing a gay 'wedding', and Lance Pierson, a married writer, lock horns over homosexuality and the Church



Lance Pierson, left, and Bishop Derek Rawcliffe

Dear Derek,

DO NOT AGREE that same-sex genital acts are legitimate for Christians. But I welcome this chance to try to understand your view. Here's what most concerns me: aren't we in danger of losing more than we gain if we assume that (a) gay people are bound to stay gay, and (b) we are free to change the Church's historic teaching on homosexuality?

woman has devoted herself to me for the rest of her life, and I to her and we have a girl and a boy who fill us with hope and joy. I don't suggest anyone should marry before they're ready to embrace it.

Your brother in God's family, Lance

Dear Lance,

THANK YOU for your letter. I'll deal with one point: can gay people do something to change their sexuality at will? Sexuality is usually thought of as a spectrum with each of us somewhere on the scale. Your use of the word 'predominantly' seems to support this way of looking at it.

bisexuality. I agree some do find they have moved some distance along the spectrum during their lives, but this is not something they determined to do; they discovered it had happened. What I'm getting at is that we do not choose to be gay or straight. And we cannot choose to change it.

DEAR DEREK, THANKS - I'm glad your marriage was happy. But I'd already agreed this was no escape route. I also agree with the sexuality 'spectrum'. And that gay people aren't sick. In my view, the route most people take to heterosexual living and loving gets blocked in our case, often by a failed relationship with our same-sex parent.

In the Netherlands, you can now get hold of the paper you're holding more easily. The Guardian International offers you a European perspective of the latest news, including business, economics, sport and specialist features.

True, we didn't choose the orientation we're first aware of and we can't change it unaided. But we can seek help to change. I have indeed moved along the spectrum: this didn't 'just happen' - I asked God in his mercy to bring it about. Again I agree we need to accept the way we are now. But I can't join your conclusion that God necessarily made us that way.

DEAR LANCE, I'll start with your idea that homosexuality is caused by an early failed relationship with our same-sex parent. I note you say often, but even so this doesn't account for straight people who have had bad relations with their same-sex parent nor gay people who have had good relations with their parent.

Dear Lance,

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DEAR LANCE, I'll start with your idea that homosexuality is caused by an early failed relationship with our same-sex parent. I note you say often, but even so this doesn't account for straight people who have had bad relations with their same-sex parent nor gay people who have had good relations with their parent.

Doonesbury



She has somehow missed the worst of it: the significance of the number 22. In his laddish way, Blair was clearly set on providing the number of names it would take to assemble a soccer match. It listed in the formation 2-3-2, the names he mentioned would produce the following sides: New Labour: John Smith; Neil Kinnock; John Prescott; Gordon Brown; David Blunkett; Jack Straw; Chris Smith; Robin Cook; John Major; Michael Heseltine; Joseph Stain; Ewen Newer Labour: Kim Il Sung; Neil Hamilton; Ken Clarke; Matthew Harding; Dennis Stevenson; Bob Hughes; Nelson Mandela; Clem Attlee; Alan Howard; William Wilberforce; Adolf Hitler.





Keeping an eye on the blips... an air traffic controller at London's Heathrow. For a stress-free journey, it is not advisable to dwell on just how chaotic the chaotic moments can be

PHOTOGRAPHY: MARTIN OGDON

# 'These are not lives here; they are just dots'

The New Delhi air crash highlights the lot of air traffic controllers. Gary Younge reports

**A**IR TRAFFIC controllers like to compare themselves to fortune tellers. Gazing up to a dozen planes to land safely at any one time, they sit in front of computer screens, fuelled by fast food, making snap decisions that affect the lives of millions of people around the world. Their skill is to predict what will happen, avoid potential calamities and exploit possible opportunities while trying to keep their heads, their hair and a modicum of poise.

But in aviation, as in finance, for all the reliable workers beavering away there will always be a rogue trader — a Nick Leeson of the skies who takes on too much, is in too deep and refuses to pull the emergency cord until it is too late, so bringing the whole house crashing down.

Like the controller who got so frustrated by the number of blips on his screen, representing planes waiting to land, that he took his cursor and started eliminating them one by one.

Or the woman in Arizona who put an American West 737 and US Air Force fighter on a collision course as they closed in at 800mph, then froze when she realised what she had done. A crash was averted only when her supervisor stepped in and the fighter pilot was ordered to change course.

is the safest form of transport. At present, the chances of your plane crashing is little more than three in a million. But while the statistics back up this argument convincingly, the headlines do not. After a period of relatively infrequent air disasters the number of incidents in the last year has leapt dramatically. Thursday's near collision between a British Airways Boeing 767 and an Air US Fokker 100 over south-east Scotland follows the crash between a Saudi Jumbo jet and a Kazakh airliner earlier this week. The accident, in which all 356 passengers and crew were killed, made headlines around the world.

When a jet belonging to the bucket-price airline Vajuet, plunged into the Florida Everglades leaving 110 dead, Vajuet was grounded by the Federal Aviation Authority because of its poor safety record. When it took to the

flying I know that everybody else in the air has a certain level of expertise and a licence. You don't know what you're dealing with on the road."

be. That way you won't have to concern yourself that an air traffic controller might be, in air traffic control speak, "going down the piper" — lapsing in concentration and losing track of what is happening on the radar screen; about to "set a deal" — make a mistake which is reported to the Federal Aviation Authority; or "fishing for

The trouble is that ATCs shifts have got far harder recently and promise to get even harder. Thanks to under-investment in technology, under-staffing and a massive increase in workload, the majority are performing in what amounts to sweatshop conditions.

Morever, it is not uncommon for radar screens to go completely blank for hours — even days — at a time and for the controllers to look out for air traffic by peering through binoculars. "We're de-

circling aircraft in the sides waiting to land and growing queues of planes on the tarmac waiting to take off. For airport controllers, more stacks means more blips on the screen which means more stress.

colloquial. One American pilot, who was second in the queue to touch down at Gatwick, received the instruction: "pop over". The English controller meant that he should keep circling but the pilot thought he was being told to leapfrog the first plane and land in front.

## Going up - by 2010 commercial departures will have grown from 14 to 22 million

air again at the end of September one American commentator quipped that a passenger without an identity card could always present his dental records. A Wall Street Journal survey predicted that at current rates there would be one Vajuet-type disaster every month within a decade.

The controller must guide the planes in his or her control area — sometimes several at a time — into the airport while ensuring that they remain a safe distance apart.

pending on finding the planes right out of the window, which is kind of a crazy way to conduct business. This is critical," says one controller in Florida, where the radar had not been fixed for two days.

Then there's congestion. Most forecasts suggest that air travel will grow by little over five per cent a year in the foreseeable future. By 2010 the annual number of commercial airline departures will have grown from 14 million to 22 million.

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**Simon Hattenstone celebrates a less pompous era for the quiz-show**

**YOU** HAVE two minutes on your specialist subject. Dead Culture, starting NOW. What television programmes will be killed off next year after 25 years of soporific monotony?

It will spew out facts to infinity. Finish your ice-olly and the naked stick will tell you that Philoosus was a Syriac prose writer and a champion of Monophysite doctrine.

As knowledge was demystified, facts were no longer primarily gleaned from beautiful books. The ultimate fact machine was a computer and computers were ugly and mechanical.

They have great catchphrases, terrific prizes or famously crap prizes, they get the audience screaming and wailing, they have scope for silly moments ("Can I have a P please, Bob?") always get a laugh on Blockbusters in my day, they play post-modern jokes and scorn proper answers. Some even mock the very notion of knowledge, none more cruelly than Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game.



SO I SAID 'WHAT ABOUT ANOTHER 25 YEARS?' AND THEY SAID 'PASS'

New Delhi on Tuesday, Indian aviation experts say that pilots from the former Soviet Union have always had problems understanding instructions in English and their cockpit equipment is marked in metric.

None of this has been helped by the strong push towards deregulation and the Reagan decision to sack two-thirds of US air traffic controllers in the early eighties after they went on strike 16 years ago. Many American airports still have fewer fully-trained staff than before the dispute even though the number of flights has increased by 200 per cent in some cases.

The British government plans to push ahead with privatisation of its air traffic control system, which the unions claim will compromise safety standards. "Our opposition is not based on ideology but real concern over a safe, viable air traffic system," says Joe Magee, the national officer of the air traffic controllers' union, the IMA.

Both the US and the UK are currently modernising their control equipment but even that is proving problematic. The US is planning to update its system with \$1 billion-worth of new automated equipment over the next 10 years. It is also considering the introduction of a new "free flight" system, which would allow planes to fly directly from A to B without travelling on specific routes and using a global-positioning system for navigation. Some fear that this could make the skies a more dangerous place, rendering the air traffic controllers at best simply monitoring the traffic and at worst obsolete.

But at least one pilot, who refused to be named, said that the main danger for air travellers is not the overworked air traffic controllers, their out-of-date equipment or even the cut-price airlines, but the over-boisterous public. "Our most common problems are with the passengers — who get drunk and violent; who abuse the crew or who try and smoke in the toilets. Get rid of them and we'll be fine."

arts



The explorers who discovered the fabulous Chauvet cave paintings are accusing the French government of stealing the credit. But the real issue, says John Berger (left), is how these ancient beasts challenge our sense of artistic progress. In an open letter to the artist Marisa Camino, he takes an imaginative journey back through 30,000 years

SHOOTING STARS



Up... As head chorister at Christ's Hospital school, William is a treble well into his 17th year. Will his voice ever break?

Up... William goes to Oxford on a choral scholarship, then returns to the Guildhall School of Music. Wins the 1995 NFMAS Young Concert Artists Award and records Terror & Magrifice with jazzman John Harle.

And away... This week, at 29, he's getting rave notices for his Endimion in Cavalli's La Calisto. He'll soon leech his outrageously high sounds in an opera by Harle and Elvira Costello.



Going... What makes actress Liz famous to start with? A dress that isn't even stitched together at the sides, and a loveable-fop boyfriend who makes one successful film.

Going... Hugh is caught with a lady of the night. The publicity gives Liz a chance to wheedle her way into a decent acting job. Anyone remember Mad Dogs And Englishmen?

Gene... Now she's a film producer — for Simlan Films (props. H Grant, E Hurley). Can she get herself a respectable job on screen? Er... Delilah in a no-brainer TV movie?

# Secrets of the stones

Dear Marisa,

You have painted many creatures and turned over many stones and crouched for hours looking; perhaps you will follow me.

Today I went to the street market in a suburb south of Paris. You can buy everything there, from boots to sea urchins. There's a woman who sells the best paprika I know. There's a fishmonger who shouts out to me whenever he has an unusual fish that he finds beautiful, because he thinks I may buy it in order to draw it. There's a lean man with a beard, who sells honey and wine. Recently he has taken to writing poetry and he hands out photocopies of his poems to his regular clients, himself looking even more surprised than they do.

One of the poems Alain handed me this morning went like this: *Who put this triangle in my hand? This triangle born of moonlight Went through me without touching me.*

*Making the noise of a dragonfly Deep in the rock at night.*

After I read it, I wanted to talk to you about the first painted animals. What I want to say is obviously something that everybody who has looked at paleolithic cave paintings must feel, but which is never (or seldom) said clearly. Maybe the difficulty is one of vocabulary; maybe we have to find new references.

The beginnings of art are being continually pushed back in time. Sculpted rocks just discovered at Kummurra in Australia may date back 75,000 years. The paintings of horses, rhinoceroses, ibex, mammoths, lions, bears, bison, panthers, reindeer, aurochs and an owl found in 1994 in the Chauvet cave in the French Ardèche are probably 30,000 years old. The time separating us from these artists is at least 12 times longer than the time separating us from the pre-Socratic philosophers.

What makes the age of these works astounding is the sensitivity of perception they reveal. The thrust of an animal's neck or the set of its mouth or the energy of its haunches were observed and re-created with a nervousness and control comparable to what we find in the works of a Fra Lippo Lippi, a Velazquez or a Brancusi. Apparently art did not begin clumsily. The eyes and hands of the first painters and engravers were as fine as any that came later. There was a grace from the start. This is the mystery, isn't it?

The difference between then and now concerns not finesse but space; the space in which their images exist as images and were imagined. It is here — because the difference is so great — that we have to find a new way of talking. There are, fortunately, superb

photographs of the newly discovered Chauvet paintings. The cave has been closed up and no public visits will be allowed. The animals on the rocks are back in the darkness from which they came and in which they resided for so long.

We have no word for this darkness. It is not night and it is not ignorance. From time to time we all cross this darkness, seeing everything, so much everything that we can distinguish nothing. You know it, Marisa, better than I. It's the interior from which everything came.

One July evening this summer, I went up the highest field, high above the farm, to fetch Louis's cows. During the hay-making season I often do this. By the time the last trailer has been unloaded in the barn, it's getting late and Louis has to deliver the evening milk by a certain hour, and anyway we are tired, so while he prepares the milking machine I go to bring in the herd.

I climbed the track that follows the stream, which never dries up. The path was shady and the air still hot but not heavy. There were no hedges as there had been the previous evening. The path runs like a tunnel under the branches of the trees, and in parts it was muddy. In the mud I left my footprints among the countless footprints of cows. To the right the ground drops

very steeply to the stream. Beech trees and mountain ash prevent it being dangerous; they would stop a beast if it fell there. On the left grow bushes and the odd elder tree. I was walking slowly so I saw a tuft of reddish cow hair caught on the twigs of one of the bushes.

Before I could see them, I began to call. Like this, they might already be at the corner of the field to join me when I appeared. Everyone has their own way of speaking with cows. Louis talks to them as if they were the children he never had: sweetly or furiously, murmuring or swearing. I don't know how I talk to them; but, by now, they know. They recognise the voice without seeing me.

When I arrived they were waiting. I undid the electric wire and cried: "Venez, mes belles, venez." Cows are compliant, yet refuse to be hurried. Cows live slowly — five days to our one. When we beat them, it's invariably out of impatience. Our own. Beaten, they look up with that long-suffering air that is a form (yes, they know it!) of impertinence, because it suggests not five days, but five seconds.

They ambled out of the field and took the path down. Every evening Delphine leads and every evening Hirondeille is the last. Most of the animals join the file in the same order, too. The regularity of this somehow suits their patience.

I push against the same one's rump to get her moving, and I felt her massive warmth, as I did every evening, coming up to my shoulder under my single "Alix." I told her "Alix, Tullie," keeping my hand on her haunch, which jutted out like the corner of a table.

In the mud their steps made almost no noise. Cows are very delicate on their feet: they place them like mannequins turning on high-heeled shoes at the end of their to-and-fro. I've even had the idea of training a cow to walk on a tightrope. Across the stream, for instance!

The running sound of the stream was always part of our evening descent, and when it faded the cows heard the toothless spit of the water pouring into the trough by their thirst. A cow can drink about 30 litres in two minutes.

Meanwhile, that evening, we were making our slow way down. We were passing the same trees. Each nudged the path in its own way. Charlotte stopped where there was a patch of green grass. I tapped her. She went on. It happened every evening. Across the valley I could see the already mown fields.

Hirondeille was letting her head dip with each step, as a duck does. I rested my arm on her neck and suddenly I saw the evening as from a thousand years away.

Louis's herd walking fastidiously down the path, the stream babbling beside us, the heat subsiding, the trees nudging us, the flies around their eyes, the valley and the pine trees on the far crest, the smell of urine as Delphine pisses, the buzzard hovering over the field called la Plaine Fin, the water pouring into the trough, me, the mud in the tunnel of trees, the immeasurable age of the mountain... suddenly everything there was indivisible, was one. Later each part would fall to pieces at its own rate. Now they were all compacted together. As compact as an acrobat on a tightrope.

"Listening not to me but to the logos, it is wise to agree that all things are one," said Heraclitus, more than 25,000 years after the Chauvet paintings were made. Only if we remember this unity and the darkness we spoke of can we find our way into the space of those first paintings.

Nothing is framed in them; more important, nothing nests. Because the animals run and are seen in profile (which is essentially the view of a poorly armed hunter seeking a target) they sometimes give the impression that they are going to meet. But look more

carefully: they cross without meeting. This is true, even of the two fighting rhinoceroses.

Their space has absolutely nothing in common with that of a stage. When experts pretend they can see here "the beginnings of perspective", they are falling into a deep, anachronistic trap. Pictorial systems of perspective are architectural and urban, depending upon the window and the door. Nocturnal "perspective" is about coexistence, not about distance.

Deep in the cave, which meant deep in the earth, there was everything. Wind, water, fire, far-away places, the dead, thunder, pain, paths, animals, light, the unborn... they were there in the rock to be called to. The famous imprints of life-size hands (when we look at them, we say they are ours) — these hands are there, stencilled in ochre, to touch and mark the everything-present and the ultimate frontier of the space this presence inhabits.

The drawings came, one after another, sometimes to the same spot, with years or perhaps centuries between them, and the fingers of the drawing hand belonging to a different artist.

All the drama that is later art becomes a scene painted on a surface with edges, is compacted here into the apparition that has come through the rock to be seen. The limestone opens for it, lending it a bulge here, a hollow there, a deep scratch, an overhanging lip, a receding flank.

When an apparition came to an artist, it came almost invisibly, trailing a distant, unrecognisably vast sound, and he or she found it and traced where it nudged the surface, the facing surface, on which it would now stay visible even when it had withdrawn and gone back into the one.

Things happened that later millennia found it hard to understand. A head came without a body. Two heads arrived one behind the other. A single hind leg chose its body, which already had four legs. Six antlers settled on a single skull.

It doesn't matter what size we are when we are behind in the rock. From where they came. As we did, too...

The drama of these first painted creatures is neither to the side nor to the front, but always behind in the rock. From where they came. As we did, too...

The author is a novelist and art critic. Her photograph from Chauvet Cave, Thames and Hudson, 228.

**DON Mozart GIOVANNI**

18 21 23 27 29 November  
5 December at 7pm

**ROYAL OPERA**

## Hang on to your bobby socks! Here comes... Amazing Grace

- POOR little girl comes to New York
- wanting to sing her heart out. Love, money and showbiz machinery stand in her way, but with a smile that big and an even bigger beehive hairdo, you know no one's going to rain on her parade.

Beneath the hip trimmings, Allison Anders's *Grace Of My Heart*, a more than affectionate tribute to sixties American pop, is an old-fashioned backstage musical. It's best described as an updating of *Funny Girl* according to the criteria of *Mojo* magazine — not least because its star, *Denise* Douglas (ganche herself), who becomes streetwise *Denise*, is so much in the *Streets* and soul.

Anders's film, which Scorese executive-produced, is a *romans à clef*, starting out as a

fictionalised biopic of singer Carole King, then taking a detour into *A Star Is Born* territory, as *Denise* hitches up with an addled surf-pop genius — rugged Matt Dillon an improbable stand-in for the Beach Boys' pudgy Brian Wilson.

It's inevitable when you make a film about strident pop that things will degenerate en route — hairdos to die for end up with Woodstock riffs; nerdy snappy two-minute soul operas turn into dippy West Coast me-me meandering. But Anders plays it for fun all the way.

No sooner has *Denise* gone off for three years' sulking in *diradi* at a West Coast commune than John Turturro turns up in his ludicrous wig and goatee, as her Phil Spector-like mentor, and whips everyone into party mood. Next thing you know, she's making

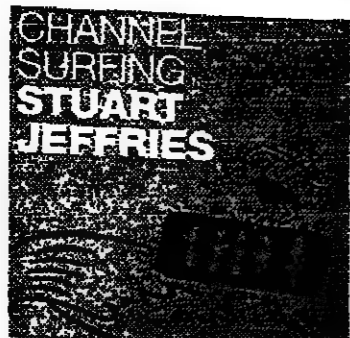
her solo LP. There's a strong scent of "Let's put on a show right here", but starry-eyed eagerness is the best attitude for capturing the era.

What gives the frivolity its backbone is an adept feminist slant on pop history — in one brisk anecdote, *Denise* writes a perfect, oblique heart-winger hit for a secretly lesbian singer. She's less successful with the story of white singers learning their tricks from black musicians, who usually didn't get to take their tunes to the bank.

If you can swallow the shamelessly upbeat revisionism, there are some real pleasures to be had here. Foremost is a sublime collection of songs — notably soaring piece of melodrama by Elvis Costello and Burt Bacharach. No less memorable is Douglas herself, all eyes, huge grin, skinny flailing arms and brio, like a jolly, sexy cross between Streisand, Audrey Hepburn and Olivia Oyl, who cares if she didn't do her own singing? **Jonathan Romney**

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### Yule be sorry

**W**HAT little girl's Christmas would be complete without a Bubble Talk Baby? Only £18.75, and doesn't she have darling blue eyes? But here's the best part. You blow bubbles and when they hit her "magic bracelet", she speaks. "This is fun!" she says, or "I love bubbles!" No? How about a pair of elephant-topped, gel-filled massage insoles at £15.91? That's right, elephant-topped. Not? What about a Santa's sleigh on rails? It circles your Christmas tree, headed by a team of plastic reindeers. A seasonal monument to your good taste.

It's reassuring that, despite many hours of watching QVC, the cable shopping channel, I've never seen anything worth buying. Apart, obviously, from the Grandfather Clock Hotel, a timepiece and economy-sized Wendy House. I'd like to buy the whole stock and set about each one with a baseball bat.

The characteristic experience of watching QVC is one of relaxed absorption, followed by total panic. It's an experience the channel comminates with various. Each item is lovingly scrutinised to gentle music — the way that bracelet looks from different camera angles, how it rests like a sack of spanners on the presenter's wrist.

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### Channel Surfing

**STUART JEFFRIES**

And the Liz Earle Complete Beauty Routine, including a book of tips on youthful skin ("The book is a sort of present from me." Thanks Liz).

Nigel Ballantyne presented for three hours on Thursday morning, effortlessly enthusing about the insoles, the Space Saver CardioWalk Treadmill and the duck that quacked Old McDonald if you punched it. He's a terrific host — enthusiastic, unctuous, chummy to people who phone in.

Everyone is so nice on QVC. Nice to the extent that you feel like washing your hands afterwards. You could be in a posh department store, such is the bogus attentiveness and the hard sell in a velvet glove.

It's different from the seasonal TV ads that purport to minimise the expense but also stymie the joy of Christmas shopping. The screwy logic of one supermarket's pitch: "As Christmas is the time when you'll buy most, you'll want to spend least." Another's self-regarding statement of principle: "Is there anything we don't sell?" "Yes: we don't sell the customer short." Come now, you're too modest. Everybody gets short-changed at Christmas.

But nobody is going to be as short-changed as those who watch the adverts between Gladiators and Baywatch from today until Christmas. The Word, the axed youth show, returns as a soft-drink commercial. It's a pernicious trend: like those ads for American beer that come complete with a cod talk show, this is a commercial that pretends to be entertainment.

Unlike QVC, which is overtly about making purchases, but which incidentally entertains those who live to shop, this is an insidious form of broadcasting which attempts to associate pop with The Word's apparently transgressive content. There will be a mock lottery in which contestants eat mince pies, one of which contains dog food. It can only boost ITV's reputation for Saturday night quality.

It's produced by Planet 24, the company that made The Big Breakfast and Hotel Babylon. Bring the camera in closer a moment, could you Larry? Look at the workmanship that went into them, the attention to detail, the absolute quality, mate. Barely a millicent went into the gel-filled insole.

The RSC is right to revive a 16th-century Morality Play — but not like this, says Michael Billington

# Everyman for himself



Bath time... the RSC's eccentrically inventive production of Everyman

### The let-down

**H**OW do you present religious drama in a secular age? Bill Bryden's answer in both the Mysteries and Dennis Potter's Son Of Man was to rely on communal memory, folk rock and audience involvement. Kathryn Hunter and Marcello Magni take a different tack in their production of Everyman at Stratford's Other Place. They deploy many of the physical techniques of Theatre de Complicité, from which they both hail. But their production, though eccentrically inventive, seems at odds with the gravity and purity of this 16th-century Morality Play.

Everyman, as scholars point out, is not a bit like other medieval Moralities. There is no battle between good and evil, no interjection of AP Rossiter's "vices, devils, squibs and jocularities". It is a work of unrelieved earnestness in which God, despairing of human vanity, tells Death to go to Everyman and bid him prepare for a mortal pilgrimage. In his final journey of reckoning, Everyman is deserted by Fellowship, Kindred, Goods, Beauty, Strength and various allegorical companions. Only Good Deeds accompanies the repentant sinner to the grave and ensures his ascension to Heaven.

Clearly a work like this poses problems for a modern audience. We are not used to dramatised abstractions. We are even less used to the idea of a God who arraigns mankind for "living without dread in worldly prosperity", who talks menacingly of his "sharp rod" and who threatens unrepentant sinners with "everlasting fire". The play is a powerful product of Catholic Europe, and what it says, unequivocally, is that Man can be saved only by his actions — and even then, they'd better be pretty substantial. "And they be small," in the words of the concluding speech, "before God he hath no help at all."

Yet I believe the play can be made to work for a modern audience. It deals with the fear of dying, which is universal. It sees human life as something that has to be accounted for — an idea that human drama from Hamlet to Peer Gynt also taps into our residual belief that theatre should be morally improving — witness the modern popularity of An Inspector Calls or Hofmannsthal's Jedermann, which every summer confronts well-heeled Salzburg Festival-goers with the vanity of riches and the imperative of death. Propaganda has always been a vital part of theatre, and Everyman, at its most basic, tells us how to live.

What it needs, however, is moral conviction and imagery that

matches the text, both of which seem to be wanting in the Hunter-Magni production. In a strange pretence, Joseph Mydell's naked Everyman is given a ritual rub-down in a tin bath before going as best man to Fellowship's wedding. God is a homely figure in white wig and gardening clothes. Death arrives in the tempting shape of Josette Bushall-Mingo in low-cut gown. And when the allegorical Five Wits appear, they turn out to be a ragged-arsed circus troupe doing funny business with ladders.

I have no objection to modern dress. It goes perfectly well with a work that harks on the emptiness of materialism. Bryden's Mysteries also showed that you can achieve the luminous in everyday working-clothes. But although they reject medieval iconography, Hunter and Magni never replace it with anything substantial of their own. The allegorical figures simply become clownish, sub-Complicité types, with Cousin played as a funny foreigner, Fellowship's bride as a man in drag, and Goods as a seedy Arthur Daley spiv. The pervasive jokiness fatally reduces the pathos of Everyman's desertion.

Only when the production resorts to basic religious imagery does it touch the heart. The sight of the penitent Everyman dragging a heavy stone or nestling in the arms of a beneficent angel is highly affecting; and when Myra McPhaden's prostrate, hump-backed Good Deeds is raised from the ground by Everyman's scouring, our spirits rise with her. At such moments something momentous — the salvation of the hero's soul — is at stake; at other times we seem to be watching a hectic attempt to lend tonal variety to a work whose very strength lies in its sombre unity.

I can see the problem. We have no recent tradition on which to draw in presenting medieval Morality Plays. We also lack a shared faith or fear of damnation. But theatre is a strange medium in which the conviction of the actors can lead to a willing suspension of disbelief; here, however, the pervasive irony left me only spasmodically carried away by the notion that we shall all confront a day of reckoning.

The RSC is right to revive this rarely seen play. But the challenge facing the company in its Other Place season, where Katie Mitchell goes on to direct the Mysteries, is not just to test the dramatic vitality of pre-Shakespearean drama. It is something even deeper: to recapture the spirit of a time when drama made the miraculous manifest and had a direct moral purpose. If theatre doesn't lead us to question the way we live, what is it for?

At The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon (01789 295823).

### WAVE RIDING ANNE KARPFF

analysis department, they're invariably a hoot. As for the songs, I knew them all. (Perhaps that's a definition of middle-age when you recognise all the records in a Radio 2 programme.) But why nothing from that later, hipper, talk-singer, Laurie Anderson ("O Superman")?

Kelner was followed by The Jamesons (Radio 2) in which the husband-and-wife team indulge in the kind of mock bickering that makes bystanders faint from tedium. Jameson *femme* also has a stammering giggle which must count among the most annoying sounds on British radio. Nevertheless, in their interview with Edwina Currie they managed to get her — briefly — out of self-orientation mode and on to politics, where she had dismissive things to say about John Major's attempt to scupper European legislation on the 48-hour week.

Currie was talking politics on a Radio 2 chat show, while BBC News and Current Affairs joined the Fergie-circuit. The Duchess of York was given a long interview with Sue MacGregor on Thursday's Today (Radio 4), which was neither more probing nor more revealing than the long interviews with her everywhere else. In a heavily contrived voice, she spoke reasonably about her mistakes. But of one crime she remains unacquitted — her debasement of language.

Not only has she appropriated the language of victimology, claiming that her shopping is akin to bulimia — a curious analogy unless she offended her purchases soon after she made them — but her repeated references to "My Man" and "The Firm" also mark her out as the Sharon of the Royal Family (at least she didn't say "We're a team"). It was when she declared "I'm standing here for truth" that you knew she'd been on too many American chat shows. Yet America also, it seems, has turned Fergie-worship: a reporter on the Chicago Tribune told Wednesday's FM that the Duchess of York was "too far down the food chain" to really excite American interest, and if she managed there all she could expect would be seafood dinners and flambéed desserts alongside the other social climbers. Ouch.

### Flambéed Fergie

**T**HE BBC has borrowed itself another Hollywood star: William Hurt is reading The Shipping News, E Annie Proulx's award-winning Newfoundland novel for The Late Book (Radio 4). It's actually not that hard for the BBC to borrow a Hollywood star — they just love working for a little pay, thereby proving their artistic integrity. (British actors, on the other hand, have had it with artistic integrity. They've got it coming out of their ears. They want some dough.)

Hurt's reading has the kind of low-key, mid-acting style that never lets you forget that his speaker is a star. He burlesques you with his intensity and assurance, sighs audibly through some of the words, and sometimes speaks so softly, slowly, and mumbly, that I thought my tranny was out of juice. No British actor would dare downplay so much: though Hurt gets to do other characters too. The Shipping News is essentially narrative, full of elliptical writing, arresting images — the life of an outsider. It makes a distinctive serial.

Martin Kelner is the maestro of novelty songs, the captain of kitsch. Show him a car-boot sale, and he can make a programme from its unloved records. In Speak To Me Pretty he did talkie records, the lump-in-the-throat stuff that reached the charts in the 1960s and 70s. He called Deck Of Cards a "recurring tribute to bad taste", and so are Kelner's programmes: though a little sparring in the cultural

**THE TRIUMPHS**

**T**HE ORIS London Jazz Festival has inspired plenty of hotted oratory about where genres begin and end, but has also provided some of the alchemy that turns all the warring elements into gold. Wednesday's performance by British composer Colin Towns's Mask Orchestra (Purcell Room) and Thursday's by a blue-chip two-band combination of Americans John Scofield and Michael Brecker (Festival Hall) are prime examples.

Towns delivered as dangerously ambitious a show as anything Loose Tubes might have produced. There's an impatient quality about his music that occasionally makes it seem jittery and unfocused, and he jams in enough ideas for half a dozen performances. But the overall effect is to throw back a curtain on the materials available to contemporary jazz composers, and in the process galvanise improvisors. In one fast, boppish improvised exchange with altoist Peter King the excellent singer Maria Pia del Vito provided one of the unforgettable moments of the festival.

Guitarist John Scofield's first-half performance on Thursday furnished a good many of the others. Since his years with Miles Davis, Scofield has often demonstrated a blend of force and subtlety, of bluesy clout and melodic ambiguity. But if the word preceding his new album, Quiet, suggested a performance of uncharacteristic reserve, a 90-minute blitz by a superb new Scofield band was the old mix. And saxophonist Michael Brecker wrapped up the show with the kind of manic impassiveness for which he's famous, with a band as expertly tuned to his needs as Scofield's.

John Fordham

The festival continues until tomorrow.

### Going to Towns

**The triumphs**

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Guardian

all you need

Virgin MEGASTORES

Derek Malcolm reviews the latest film releases

every Friday in

Screen

The Guardian

20 SPORTS NEWS

Racing

Chris Hawkins expects Nicky Henderson's improving chaser to strike gold at Cheltenham

Matt is ready for the big time

ALTHOUGH fast ground has played havoc with jumping...

The two horses heading the handicap are established class performers...

Dublin Flyer showed all his qualities when winning this race last year...

He palpably failed to stay in the Cheltenham Gold Cup...

Barton Bank is probably not the force he was but the handicapper has taken note...

Never the best of jumpers, the question is whether his fencing will hold up over this shorter trip...

The conditions will suit Easthorpe, a two miler who loves a firmish surface...

Challenger du Luc has the right credentials. He is a young, improving horse...

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Little but good... Just Little (left), who won by seven lengths, takes the final flight with Mim-Lou-And at Cheltenham

Addition Boy beat Challenger du Luc in the soft at Ayr subsequently...

The Irish challenger Anabatic is hard to assess. He beat Sound Man at Navan recently...

Challenger du Luc has the right credentials. He is a young, improving horse...

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Date set for jockeys' strike inquiry

The Jockey Club's disciplinary committee has fixed December 18 as the date for its inquiry into the jockeys' strike...

The 21 riders went against the local stewards and refused to race because they considered the course unsafe after heavy rain...

Christopher Hall, chairman of the committee, said: "We will determine whether procedures were correctly followed. Every-

thing must be done to prevent such a thing happening again."

Dancing refused to race, to run again today. Dancing Vision was a remarkable winner of the opening Coin Valley Games Company Chase after making a monumental blunder at the third last...

Small fields at the meeting did not make things any easier for jockeys who suffered a series of reverses and the only favourite to oblige was the odds-on Just Little.

Aidan O'Brien expects Just Little, who won in a canter after market rival

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Sport in brief

Lewis looks to London after victory in court

LENNOX LEWIS'S long-awaited chance to win back the WBC heavyweight title could take place in London early next year following a legal knock-out in a New Jersey court for the American promoter Don King.

Lewis's delayed fight with Oliver McCall has now been given a green light under a new promoter, and Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, said yesterday: "There is a big possibility it will come to London, at Wembley or the London Arena, and that decision will be made in the next four days."

Atlantic City is the only alternative venue to London. January 24 and February 1 are the two dates being discussed for the re-match with McCall, who in 1994 took the title from Lewis with a second-round knock-out before losing it in turn to Frank Bruno last year.

Bruno subsequently fought against Mike Tyson, who has since vacated the title. King's right to promote the fight, for which he had won the purse bid, was overturned in court because he had delayed its scheduled date beyond the 90-day deadline of December 28.

Lewis's American promoters Main Events now take over the promotion as the second highest bidders.

THE Sheffield Steelers, leading 4-1 late in the second period, fell foul of the Finnish referee and then ran out of steam as they lost 7-5 to Storhamar, the Norwegian champions, in the opening game of their European Cup semi-final group in Finland yesterday.

writes Tony Allen in Haverhill. Toxy Hand and David Longstaff put the Steelers 2-0 ahead in the first period. Sheffield had two men in the penalty box when Morton Field replied but Glenn Mulvanny and Longstaff again put them in control.

Just before the second interval, and with the referee's hand up for a delayed penalty to Sheffield, Tom Erik Olsen scrambled the puck home for Storhamar's second. The Norwegians then hit back strongly in the final period, going ahead 4-3 with goals from Aleksander Sunde, Yari Leppa and Ole Dahlstrom. Ken Priestley did equalise but Paul Johnson and Leonov secured both points in the final three minutes as Sheffield faded.

THE Essex pair saved four game points in that Bath success, and Zhang and Min must have been relieved not to face the two 20-year-olds again. Instead the unrelated Robertsons, Nathan and Julian, were selected for last night's men's doubles.

The former European champion Darren Hall won his second men's singles at Bath, where the former All England champion Mick Ponting and Joanne Goode took a drawn-out mixed doubles as England won 3-2. Baddeley, however, was playing at least four changes for last night's encounter.

Badminton pair crack China

ENGLAND'S chances of beating China in a six-match series for the second time in succession look bright as a result of the form of the men's doubles partnership of James Anderson and Ian Pearson, writes Richard Jago. Their successes provided a 2-0 cushion for the London manager Steve Baddeley to experiment in last night's third match at Boston. After coming from 3-9 in the second game to beat Zhang Jun and Min Zhenyu in straight games at Exeter on Wednesday, they recovered again from 7-15 in the second to win at Bath on Thursday.

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Tough luck for the Irish

IRELAND have been placed by the International Hockey Federation in the same group as the Asian champions South Korea, the Pan Am champions Argentina and New Zealand, recent winners of the World Cup preliminary, in next year's final World Cup qualifier in Kuala Lumpur, writes Pat Rowley.

Six countries will advance from that March 4-15 event to the 1998 World Cup in Utrecht. A new president, Juan Calzad (Spain) or Tony von Ordoz (Venezuela), will be elected at the IHF Congress in Brussels today in succession to Etienne Gilchrist (France).

POOL. At Spain, South Africa, Malaysia, Canada, Poland, Switzerland. POOL. In South Korea, Argentina, New Zealand, Belgium, Ireland, Belarus.

Cheltenham card with guide to the form

Table of racing results and form guides for Cheltenham, including race numbers, horse names, jockeys, and odds.

Results

Table of racing results for various tracks, including horse names, jockeys, and finishing positions.

Ayr

Table of racing results and form guides for Ayr, including race numbers, horse names, jockeys, and odds.

Windsor

Table of racing results and form guides for Windsor, including race numbers, horse names, jockeys, and odds.

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Westwood... es with... elegen

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Golf

Westwood lives with the legends

David Davies in Miyazaki

LEE WESTWOOD, unfazed by the presence of legends, jointly leads the Dunlop Phoenix event in Japan after two rounds. The 32-year-old Englishman, a legend only in the past two days in the company of Masashi "Jumbo" Ozaki and Tom Watson, superstars of the world...

In Japan. The fashionable bomber jackets that the spectators wear provide fascinating reading. The prize yesterday went to the man whose jacket told us that: "It was a time when words were magic/A single word imparted life/You just had to make a wish/They all came true, no one could explain it. That's the way it was."



Step class... Mackie and the Welsh hurdler Paul Gray, also bound for Australia, in training

Athletics

Christie's lift for man who would be king

Duncan Mackay on Ian Mackie, enjoying a warm hand from the old master

Duncan Mackay

IANFORD CHRISTIE, the most successful British athlete in history, has earned millions out of his sport. Meanwhile the young pretender to his crown, Ian Mackie, is unemployed and broke. It is an obvious rich-man-poor-man contrast. But there is a twist.

This morning Mackie landed at Sydney airport at the beginning of an all-expenses paid five-week stay, when he will sample the good life. Thousands of miles away in Australia, he will be a world away from the dark days at home in Dumfries when he nearly quit athletics.

Christie finally hung up his spikes after the McDonald's meeting at Sheffield in August when he was beaten by Big Mac, the first time the Olympic gold medalist had lost to a Briton over 100 metres for a decade. But Christie obviously does not bear grudges because he and his business partner Colin Jackson have invited the penniless Mackie to join them and the Olympic silver medalist, lists Frankie Fredericks and Merlene Ottey in a sprinting masterclass.

reducing his personal best to a world-class 10.75sec, and then beating Christie. "Beating Linford was a big stepping stone in my career," Mackie said. "It was a marker for next year. But Linford has told me that I need to remain level-headed about things, keep it in perspective and continue to work hard."

Promising young athletes do not always fulfil their promise of course. So what makes Christie and Jackson so excited about Mackie's prospects? "I saw similarities in his approach as a 21-year-old to my approach at the same age," Jackson said. "It was just the importance of track in the life of somebody so young. He wanted to do well, he trained hard. I thought, 'This guy can make it.'"

Success may have helped turn Christie into a millionaire. But he still recalls the days he had to borrow a pair of spikes from the old gym and used to travel home on the Tube freezing cold after winter-training sessions. "It was these bad times which made me so determined to succeed and that's why I made it," Christie said. "It is because Christie sees Mackie struggling in the same way that he is prepared to open his wallet, and not only for the young Scot. Mackie is one of a handful of youngsters including Jamie Baulch, the 4,000m Olympic medalist—who are being assisted by Christie and Jackson.

Without cash help Mackie might have quit. For five years since packing up his job and an apprentice role, Mackie has had to rely on the support of his parents and the dole. Next summer should see even more doors being barged open by Mackie's broad shoulders. Reaching the final of the world championships in Atlanta is a realistic ambition, as is establishing himself as the Continent's No. 1 in time for the 1998 European championships, in succession to the holder since 1986, Linford Christie.

But while Mackie is in Australia working towards these goals, it is the memory of rain-lashed, freezing cold training sessions in Scotland which are more likely to sustain his determination. "I've come a long way since last year," Mackie said. "If you would have told me then I would be in this position now I would have laughed at you."

Huntingdon

Table of horse racing results for Huntingdon, including race numbers, names, and times.

Wolverhampton (A.W.)

Table of horse racing results for Wolverhampton (A.W.), including race numbers, names, and times.

The oldest swinger in town at 98

LEON STUKELJ, the oldest living Olympic champion, celebrated his 98th birthday in Ljubljana, Slovenia this week. 72 years after winning his first gold medals at the Paris Games.

Weekend fixtures

Table of weekend fixtures for various sports leagues, including Nationwide League, Scottish League, and others.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Table of fixtures for Bell's Scottish League, including First Division and Second Division.



Tennis

Stephen Bierley finds the big two playing it cool as they move ever closer at the Nationals in Telford

Henman laid-back on Rusedski

THE power of a single individual to lift the public's perception of a sport can never be underestimated, and there is no doubt that Tim Henman's success this year has considerably raised the profile of tennis in Britain.



Focus of attention... Greg Rusedski keeps a stern eye on his backhand against Tom Spinks in yesterday's quarter-final

man, who, win or lose, never becomes unduly animated in public, issued forward on his seat to re-emphasise the point that he had twice responded to Rusedski's challenge with wins.

approach to the game with his coach Brian Teacher. "I feel in control out there now, more mature on the court. I don't feel any sort of panic and this helps, particularly if you happen to be going through a bad patch."

Jamie Delgado, prior to Henman's veiling intervention, was seen as Britain's great hope for the future. He is still only 19 but, after taking the first set against the 26-year-old Wimbledon, lost 6-7 in the third, as had Richardson.

Claire Wood, last year's champion and three-time winner of the title in all. British women's tennis remains in the doldrums but for sheer on-court effort Taylor cannot be faulted.

Rugby Union

Back pushes for England recall

Robert Armstrong on the tigerish flanker desperate to make up for lost time as Leicester take on Harlequins in the European Cup

NEIL BAGE, the sporting embodiment of the slogan "small is beautiful", has performed before an audience of millions today when the BBC screens the second half of Leicester's European Cup quarter-final against Harlequins.

ship with Dean Richards and John Wells. "During my lay-off I continued to train hard with help from Dave Redding, an RFU fitness adviser, and I have never felt as strong and fresh as I do today."

for Test rugby. (He is 5ft 10in and 14st 7lb). "I suppose my strengths are keeping the ball alive, recycling it under pressure and setting up positive links with the backs," he reflected. "Hopefully I can utilise those skills in the flexible 16-man game we want to play, and perhaps attract the attention of the England management, who have not been in touch with me since I was banned. I hope that's just because I haven't been playing."

unfashionable qualities. Indeed, it is hard to find a single critic who has seen Back land a punch on an opponent, which makes that costly punch doubly mystifying.

Back. "Whoever wins this game could go all the way in the competition. Our previous meetings with Harlequins have always been close affairs. It's a big opportunity for everyone to show what they can do."



Back... suspension over

Andrew set for return with Wallabies

ROB ANDREW, whose 10-minute drop-goal put Australia out of the 1995 World Cup, could face the Wallabies in the final match of their current tour of Britain and Ireland.

Andrew, who retired from the international game after taking over as Newcastle's director of rugby a year ago, has been invited to play for the Barbarians against Australia at Twickenham on December 7.

Cricket

Tetley pulls out amid fear over drunken fans

ENGLISH cricket yesterday lost one of its best-known sponsors when it was announced that Carlsberg Tetley, which has pumped more than £10 million into the game over five years, has cut short an agreement originally planned to extend until September 1999.

Paul Caddick, the property businessman who won control of Headingley a month ago, was scathing about Yorkshire's refusal to discuss his redevelopment plans for the historic Test ground while the proposed £50 million Wakerley stadium has a chance of being built.

Tour match

Australian Cricket Academy v England A

Guile of Giles lifts tourists

ENGLAND A's form continued its upward trend as Rod Marsh's Australian Cricket Academy youngsters were dismissed for 258 on a slow pitch, despite the absence of the tourists' strike bowler Dean Headley.

The Warwickshire left-arm spinner, who left his native Surrey after being told to bowl seam, is having a fine tour and now matches Headley as the leading wicket-taker with 14 at an average of little more than 20.

Table with 2 columns: Player Name, Runs, Wickets. Includes names like Dighton, Marsh, and Giles.

West Indies

Openers punish West Indies

WEST INDIES bowlers suffered a morale-boosting victory in the final game before the first Test against Australia when Matthew Elliott and Matthew Hayden both hit centuries as an Australian XI smashed 218 without loss on the opening day of a four-day match at Bellerive Oval in Hobart.

England's captain Dean Jones stroked an unbeaten 121 for Victoria against South Australia in their Sheffield Shield game in Melbourne, his 51st first-class century, helping his side to 270 for five at the end of the first day.

Rugby League

Super take-off in Australia

AFTER almost two years of bitter strife it took yesterday a few minutes to remove the final obstacle to the launch of Super League in Australia.

Some clubs aligned to the ARL are expected to jump ship and join Super League, which offers players better prospects for international football. After winning apparently sweeping court victory in March, the ARL is now practically isolated.

That rebuilding will start on Wednesday when the RFL reveals next season's fixtures, which will include a 22-club international competition.

Snooker

Spencer quits WPBSA board

JOHN SPENCER is resigning from the board of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association after seven years as its chairman, writes Chris Eborson.

The 63-year-old former world champion, on the board of the sport's governing body for 25 years, will depart at the end of the month.

Results

Football: Arsenal 2-0 Liverpool, Manchester United 1-0 Tottenham, Chelsea 1-0 Newcastle. Tennis: Wimbledon, Wimbledon, Wimbledon.

Basketball

Atlanta Hawks 107-95 Orlando Magic, Chicago Bulls 101-87 New York Knicks, Los Angeles Lakers 101-94 Houston Rockets.

Ice Hockey

Colorado Avalanche 3-1 New Jersey Devils, Philadelphia Flyers 2-1 Pittsburgh Penguins, St Louis Blues 2-1 Tampa Bay Lightning.

1996-7 Season PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALL. Tickets available for various clubs. BOOK TICKETS NOW 0171 413 3355

The Guardian Sport



French polish Arsenal's complete midfielder 22



Henman in a hurry Britain's No. 1 powers through 23



England A's green and pleasant southland SPRINGTIME sees Mike Gatting's young tourists blossoming in Mount Gambier, where they dismissed the Australian Cricket Academy. Report, page 23 SHAUN BOTHELL

Famous Fives forgotten on foreign fields



David Lacey

WHO were the Famous Five? The question was posed in Tbilisi last week, between the hours of 18.00 and an interesting fish dish. It was answered in chorus. 'The Famous Five? Why Smith, Johnstone, Reilly, Turnbull and Ormond, the Hibernian forward line of the immediate post-war years, not to be confused with the Magnificent Five (Los Cinco Magnificos) who distinguished Real Zaragoza in the Sixties. Scottish football history was once measured in quintets. Before the first world war and after there were several outstanding examples. Celtic had Bennett, McManamy, Quinn, Somers and Hamilton; the Rangers attack read Archibald, Cunningham, Henderson, Cairns and Morton, and more than once Bell, Miller, Jennings, James and Archibald had them dancing in the streets of Raith. Then there was the greatest Scottish forward line of all: Jackson, Dunn, Gallacher, James and Morton, the Wembley Wizards of 1928 whose 5-1 rout of England at Wembley prompted this damning judgment from the Glasgow Herald: 'The success of the Scots was primarily another demonstration of Scottish skill, science and trickery will still prevail against the less attractive and simpler methods of the English style in which speed is relied on as the main factor.' With this in mind, watching the Old Firm match on Sky the night before last proved a sobering experience. All the old passions thundered from the stands at Celtic Park and were dutifully echoed by Andy Gray, a commentator who would bring to a game of hopechick images of the Scots Greys at Waterloo. But in football terms the occasion was about as Scottish as a kill made in Taiwan. For while Scots made up half the numbers, the principal players, the legions of Kenny Dalglish and Jim Baxter, were foreign almost to a man. Even Richard Gough, a granite pillar in the Rangers defence, was born in Stockholm and the few moments of skill, science and trickery that were evident in an indifferent match were provided by a Dane (Brian Laudrup), an Italian (Paolo Di Canio) and, in one brief instance, an Englishman (Paul Gascoigne).

On a rare day when all the top clubs are in action Newcastle can stamp their mark on the Premiership. David Lacey reports

Mission possible for Keegan hit squad

IN the Premiership, winter begins today following a fortnight's break for the Internationals. For Newcastle United, however, the outlook remains cosy. By the end of the afternoon they should at least have maintained their two-point lead at the top. They may even have extended their present eight-point advantage over the flagging champions Manchester United, who regained the title last time over Kevin Keegan's recumbent ambitions. This is one of those rare Saturdays which finds all of the title contenders in action and kicking off at three o'clock. For once Sky's cameras are devoting their attention to the lower orders.

ample, where Wimbledon's perky challenge should be maintained, from Elland Road, where Liverpool face Ian Rush for the first time since he left Anfield, and from Ewood Park, where Chelsea's latest Italian import, Gianfranco Zola, will test the truth of Blackburn's revival. No tidings, however, will be more eagerly awaited at Newcastle than those from Old Trafford, where Manchester United are already in danger of becoming caught on the twin horns of domestic and European ambitions. Today they meet second-placed Arsenal. On Wednesday they are at home to Juventus in the Champions League. Victory now and nothing worse than a draw in four days' time would halt United's slide in the Premiership and, despite their recent historic home defeat by Fenerbahce, keep alive their hopes of becoming the first English club to reach the quarter-finals of the Champions Cup in 11 years. But first Alex Ferguson's players need to demonstrate that they are still able to control their own destiny. Ferguson's side has lost four of its last five matches, conceding five goals at Newcastle and six at Southampton, marking the manager's 10 years in charge with a wake. Ryan Giggs, who because of a calf injury has not started a match since the end of September, is set to return but the kind of restorative United need is more in mind than body. It is very much a matter of regaining collective confidence, a commodity Arsenal possess in abundance after five league wins and two

draws. Ian Wright, thriving on the service provided by Patrick Vieira, is in prolific form and the Premiership's most seasoned defence has also conceded fewest goals. The run has left Arsenal two points off the lead and by the end of the month they will have a better idea of how genuine their championship pretensions really are. November has already seen them have the better of a rough-and-tumble 2-2 draw at Wimbledon, a week tomorrow Arsenal Wenger will experience his first north London derby when Tottenham visit Highbury, and the following Saturday Arsenal are at Newcastle. The speed of Alan Shearer's recovery from a groin operation will be of particular interest in London N6. Newcastle's England striker could even reappear at Chelsea a week today. Today, Giggs or no Giggs, Arsenal will hope to exploit the absence of the suspended Roy Keane from Manchester United's midfield. Arsenal have lost on their last three league visits to Old Trafford and have not won there for five seasons. But, unless the form of Eric Cantona has radically improved during the interim, the chances of the trend being reversed must be strong. Coventry's record away to Wimbledon is good — three wins in the last four visits — but, with Leonhardson, Jones and Earle back in Joe Kinnear's side, it is hard to see the struggling team Gordon Strachan has taken over from Ron Atkinson maintaining the sequence. It is equally difficult to envisage Liverpool losing to George Graham's Leeds, despite Sunderland's 3-0 defeat at Elland Road a fortnight ago and Blackburn's victory, by a similar margin, over Roy Evans's side the following afternoon. Yet one thought will bug Liverpool today: Rush has yet to score in a Leeds shirt.

Blackburn looked anything but a doomed team in beating Liverpool and it may take more than Vialli and Zola to end Chelsea's run of four successive defeats at Ewood. A second victory for Tony Parkes, told to carry on caretaking yesterday, would send Nottingham Forest to Hillsborough on Monday as the new bottom team.

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Bosnich backs anti-racism campaign after £1,000 fine

MARK BOSNICH'S Hitler salute cost him £1,000 yesterday but the Aston Villa goalkeeper threw his weight behind the Professional Footballers' Association's anti-racism scheme after being let off lightly, writes Dan Slezak. The Australian, out injured for much of this season, was found guilty of misconduct by a Football Association disciplinary commission but escaped a ban for the gesture which angered Tottenham

supporters — many of whom are Jewish — during his side's match at White Hart Lane on October 12. Bosnich, who was also severely censured, warned as to his future conduct and ordered to pay the costs of the hearing at Lancaster Gate, said afterwards: 'I abhor racism. The best thing to come out of this is that maybe it has raised awareness of it. The PFA have got an anti-racism campaign underway and I

would like to put my full support behind that.' Bosnich, who hopes to enjoy banter with supporters despite the outcome of the incident that prompted some Spurs fans to complain to the police, added: 'Sometimes when you do things wrong the best thing is to come out openly and say sorry. I'm 24. I made a mistake and that's the way it goes.' Steve Double, for the FA, said: 'Bosnich told the com-

munication without prefix edited (5,8) 27 Floral crosses get by — put back free drop of water into pipes (5,3,5) Down 1 Book showing little flower — and study on little streams (12) 2 Permission to depart (5) 3 Not expecting well-ordered fun, hole up (5) 4 Note to hear if you want to be bright (7) 5 Editoriales stream ascended around 15's opposite (7) 6 The author of our books and an article on heavenly food (5) 7 Like heavenly drink from Royal Artillery canteen? (5) 8 Norfolk river fish's swallowing ship in the Central Region (3,5) 14 List of things to make up on the Circle Line (5) 16 Seasonable and seasoned season? (3,5) 18 Irish MP holding a lot of foreign capital may have it in hand (7) 19 Purpose of services of French marshland church (7) 22 Pitman, the setter's king (5) 24 American at a loose end over the river (5)

Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,812

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,812, PO Box 315, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday, 15th November and winners in the Guardian on Monday November 25.

Collins crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Clues for the crossword puzzle, including: 1 Book showing little flower — and study on little streams (12); 2 Permission to depart (5); 3 Not expecting well-ordered fun, hole up (5); 4 Note to hear if you want to be bright (7); 5 Editoriales stream ascended around 15's opposite (7); 6 The author of our books and an article on heavenly food (5); 7 Like heavenly drink from Royal Artillery canteen? (5); 8 Norfolk river fish's swallowing ship in the Central Region (3,5); 14 List of things to make up on the Circle Line (5); 16 Seasonable and seasoned season? (3,5); 18 Irish MP holding a lot of foreign capital may have it in hand (7); 19 Purpose of services of French marshland church (7); 22 Pitman, the setter's king (5); 24 American at a loose end over the river (5).

Advertisement for 'Stuff' magazine featuring the headline 'THE INSIDE STORY ON EVERYTHING A MAN COULD WANT TO BUY' and an image of a man's face.

Set by Araucaria. Across: 1 New girl's bound fellow's books like 1 down (14); 2 Book with conclusion among the canals (5,2,6); 11 Ocellus is the best bit, we wear (3-4); 12 Fishy way in which to oppose apathy (3-4); 13 Not much time for a lawyer? (5). Down: 15 The passage is a long way from the frontier (5-4); 17 Love mixed with doubt, overlapping in a little flower (5); 20 Dance to make evidence of holiday disappear? (5); 21 Relative using the author of our books is king (7); 23 Book doctor's making a lot of fuss about — 'The Golden Rule' (7); 25 See 23; 26,27 Book or magazine.

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